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Trade and Industry

23 March 1979

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

Emergency arrangements for combating oil pollution were the subject of a Department of Trade seminar – Seacop – held in London on 19 March (See page 612).

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Return on capital not commission's only consideration

There can be no generally acceptable rate of return on capital employed says the Price Commission in its quarterly report for the quarter November 1978 to January 1979 (HC 268, HMSO, £1) published on Tuesday.

However much such a notion would facilitate the dealings of industry with the commission, the rates of return noted in its investigations ranged very widely – more than 100 per cent on a current cost accounting basis for one company in the Dollond and Aitchison group – due to a variety of products, markets and nature or employment of capital.

The commission explains that having dealt with technical questions determining the rate of return on capital, it must then enter the area of judgment. It must indicate whether it thinks the rate of return is sufficient and, if so, whether it could be achieved through a price increase) or partly or wholly through the improved use of resources and containment of costs. It has thought it right to comment in its report on the objectives and achievements of individual enterprises and whether these represent a rate of return which would prevail in a competitive environment.

The report says that there is now evidence that a seasonal pattern in the Price Commission index, which is based on notifications of large enterprises, has been establishing itself since the new commission began work. Charts and tables contained in the report show that the commission index rose by 5.9 per cent in every 12 month period ending between July and December 1978, while the six month change fell from an annual rate of 5.9 per cent in July to 4.3 per cent in September and then rose to 5.7 per cent in December. This suggests strongly that the underlying trend was stable during this period and that the six month change had been responding to the seasonal pattern.

However, the commission says: 'What is quite clear from each chart is that the index has moved up in January in a way that can certainly not be attributed to seasonality. This is a clear break with the previous stable trend and, if the previous relationships hold, should be followed by a corresponding rise in the retail prices index in the spring of this year.'

The report also contains a review of investigations and sectoral examinations completed and in progress and a statistical review which includes the results of the fresh food reports. It is supported by a number of statistical appendices.

Further interim increase for Whitbread

Whitbread and Co Ltd has been allowed a further interim price increase of 0.93 per cent by the Price Commission while the investigation into the company's prices continues. The investigation is due to be completed by 23 May.

The company has already been allowed an interim increase of 3.25 per cent on sales in its managed houses. The commission has now allowed this further interim increase to be applied to the wholesale prices of the company's wines, spirits and soft drinks and also beers – like Guinness – and ciders bought from other producers.

Whitbread had originally notified proposed increases of 5.65 per cent on the wholesale price of its own beers, wines, spirits, soft drinks and ciders and 8.82 per cent on beer, wine, food and accommodation prices in its managed houses. Price rises being investigated by the commission may not be implemented unless the commission agrees to grant an interim increase or increases.

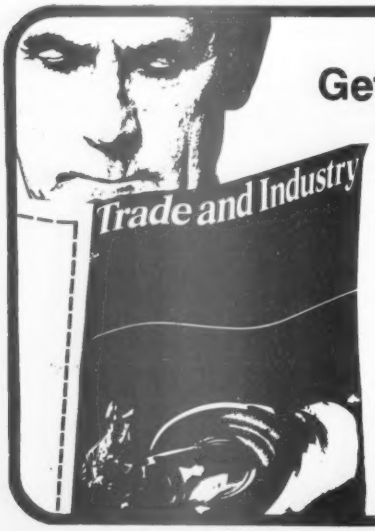
Unemployment: 5.7 per cent of employees

Unemployment figures for Great Britain, released on Tuesday, stood at 1 339 806 on 8 March – representing 5.7 per cent of employees. The total includes 28 878 school-leavers under 18.

The seasonally adjusted figure (representing 5.5 per cent of all employees) shows a decrease of 12 000 from 8 February, excluding the school-leavers. In the last three months there has been an increase on average of 9100 a month.

The average number joining the unemployment register in the three months ending February was 354 000 per month, compared with 393 000 in the three months ending November, and 390 000 in the three months ending August 1978. The average numbers leaving the register in these three periods were 347 000, 401 000 and 391 000 per month respectively.

The average inflow of vacancies in the three months ending February was 210 000 per month compared with 237 000 in the three



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months ending November, and 232 000 in the three months ending August 1978. The average outflows in the three periods were 206 000, 233 000 and 231 000 per month respectively.

The number of vacancies notified to employment offices in Great Britain remaining unfilled on 2 March was 224 983, an increase of 10 160 since last month. The number of vacancies notified to careers offices was 27 473, an increase of 4287 since February.

The number of people helped under the special employment and training measures in Great Britain at the end of February was estimated at 253 000.

Strike action affects CRO

In an announcement on Tuesday, the Department of Trade said that strike action taken by a small number of staff in the Companies Registration Office for England and Wales was continuing to prevent the normal processes of company incorporation and change of name. It had also necessitated the closure of the search rooms in London and Cardiff.

The department pointed out that the office remained open for the receipt of documents for registration. The public, it said, had access to the companies' index and could obtain information about companies' registered office addresses.

Regretting the inconvenience to the public, the department said the registrar would seek to reinstate the full services of the office at the earliest practicable date. But any one person experiencing particular and urgent problems should contact the following extensions:

Public search: London (01-253 9393) ext. 223/280; Cardiff (0222-388 588) ext. 2523/2306.

Incorporations: Cardiff (0222-388 588) ext. 2650/2651.

OVERSEAS

Trade secretary visits Czechoslovakia

John Smith, Secretary of State for Trade, started a visit to Czechoslovakia on Thursday (22 March). He returns to the UK tomorrow (Saturday).

In this, his first visit to a Comecon country as trade secretary, Mr Smith held economic and trade talks with Czech ministers and officials. His official host in Czechoslovakia was Andrei Barvak, Federal Minister for Foreign Trade.

Mr Smith also visited 'Interkamera', the exhibition in Prague where British photographic equipment manufacturers are exhibiting.

At the beginning of his visit, Mr Smith said that up to now the levels of trade between the UK and Czechoslovakia had been disappointing – far too low for two advanced industrial economies. In recent years, the two-way trade had shown little sign of growth.

The British government was keen to develop trade relations with Czechoslovakia, he said. 'During my stay I hope to discuss and agree the opportunities for doing so in talks with Czechoslovak ministers. I hope my visit will contribute to greater industrial, technological and scientific co-operation between the UK and Czechoslovakia, and to a significant increase in trade.'

Last year Britain exported goods, mainly chemicals, machinery and transport, worth £73.2 million and imported goods worth £85.4 million.

SE Asia: ripe for UK trade presence

The time is ripe for British firms to establish a strong presence in south-east Asia. There are major project business opportunities for British firms in this area where the market will treble by the end of the century.

Trade secretary John Smith told the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, The Asean business club and the Malaysia/Singapore Commercial Association on Tuesday of the lessons learnt during his recent visit to south-east Asia.

One of the lessons learnt, said Mr Smith, was 'that all the countries visited in January are heavily dependent on Japan and the United States, and they want to diversify. The time is ripe for more British firms to establish a strong presence in south-east Asia'.

Mr Smith said that the competition was strong but not impossible to overcome. 'A determined effort to trade in what is a growing and rich market area will bring good results for those who are prepared to make the effort. Our bilateral trade with the Asean countries reached £1,000 million in 1977 and is continuing to rise. It provides a good base on which to build our future trade. Ultimately it is up to the UK business community to take the opportunities which undoubtedly exist.'

On the performance required of British companies in the area Mr Smith said that the UK was half a world away from south-east Asia so Britain must be doubly vigilant over deliveries as well as all the other aspects of competitiveness. 'To be successful we need to take a brand new and sustained business and political interest in the area.'

South-east Asian countries were making rapid economic strides and had high aspirations, he said. They were looking for capital input as well as technological know-how and expertise which Britain was certainly in a good position to provide. 'We are however in danger of being beaten to the punch by the Japanese and the Americans who have quickly appreciated the lesson which we probably taught them originally. It is that to make a sustained and lasting impact in a market you need to invest in it.'

These newly industrialised countries also presented a challenge to Britain, he went on, in terms of their own industrialisation and exports both in the UK's home markets and in third markets overseas. Greater import participation in the UK market as the countries developed further was inevitable and would involve adjustments to the UK's industrial structure and employment pattern. 'These are facts which we have to face. Every industrial society must make continued adjustments in face of technological change if it is not to stagnate,' he said.

Lord Limerick to be BOTB chairman

Lord Limerick is to become chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board from 7 May, it was announced on Wednesday. He was appointed by John Smith, Secretary of State for Trade, and will succeed Sir Frederick Catherwood who will have completed a four-year appointment as chairman of the board.

Lord Limerick has been an executive director of the merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson since 1967 and a member of the board since 1975.

Since 1975 he has also been chairman of the Committee for Middle East trade.

He is a vice-president of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce having been president from 1974 to 1977. From April 1972 until the general election in February 1974 he served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade.

Successful conclusion to common fund talks reached

Common fund negotiations which opened in Geneva on 12 March have been successfully concluded. Trade secretary John Smith told the House of Commons on Tuesday that general agreement had been reached on a document setting out the main elements of the structure and financial resources of the fund.

However, a number of detailed issues remained to be solved, Mr Smith said, leading into work on the drafting of articles of agreement for the fund. The negotiating conference had agreed therefore that an interim conference should be convened to achieve this.

Mr Smith said the financial resources in the common fund had been set at levels which should ensure that it could make a major contribution to the stabilisation of commodity prices and to other relevant commodity-related measures – without undermining the responsibilities of producer and consumer governments' and with direct intervention by the fund itself in commodity markets.

The success of this conference was a significant development in the whole area of relations between developed and developing countries. It was particularly to be welcomed, he said, that the task of negotiating a common fund, which was set by the fourth United Nations conference on trade development (Unctad) in Nairobi in May 1976, should have been brought largely to a conclusion before the fifth Unctad conference opened in Manila in May.

Home news

Wilson committee proposes more help for small firms

An English Development Agency for small firms and a new type of institution, the Small Firm Investment Company (SFIC), are two of the main recommendations of an interim report from the Wilson committee, published on 15 March, on the financing of small firms.

The committee, whose final report on the functioning of financial institutions is expected to be completed towards the end of the year, singled out small firms for special treatment because of the widely held view that small firms are at a considerable disadvantage in financial markets 'whatever the availability of funds to industry and trade as a whole'. The report also calls for a publicly underwritten loan guarantee scheme to be set up on an experimental basis as soon as possible.

Welcoming the recommendations (see box) at a press conference in London on 16 March, Les Huckfield, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Industry, pointed out that the proposed English Development Agency for small firms would have a number of implications for existing agencies and for regional policy which the government would need to consider carefully. The department had already begun to review what assistance was currently available and to consider how this might be made more effective.

The department was also reviewing the qualifying limits for its assistance schemes generally. This was a continuing process and qualifying limits under a number of schemes had been significantly reduced once operational experience had been gained.

Statistical resources available to the department's small firms division had also been recently strengthened to carry out the task of monitoring the sectors, he said.

SFIC proposal

Commenting on the SFIC proposal, Harold Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said that this needed to be looked at carefully by the government along with other measures of encouraging investment in small firms. He would also be pursuing his current discussion with the clearing banks about a loan guarantee scheme.

What report says

Main recommendations of the Wilson committee report on small firms:

☐ The Department of Industry should review the thresholds of all its industrial support schemes with a view to introducing greater flexibility and ensuring that small firms are not excluded.

☐ The case for changing the law to allow small companies to raise equity in a redeemable form, and other ways of allowing proprietors of small companies to raise outside capital without risking their overall control, should be given further consideration by the Department of Trade, Treasury and other departments concerned.

☐ The Department of Trade, Treasury and other departments concerned should consider how best to promote the facilities of over-the-counter markets in this country and the case for removing some of the impediments to their development which are alleged to exist at present.

☐ Steps should be taken to promote the creation of a new type of institution, the Small Firm Investment Co (SFIC), by the removal of the present fiscal and other constraints on the spontaneous development of such a medium. A specific limited relief of personal taxation should be given for the purchase of SFIC shares.

☐ An English Development Agency for small firms should be set up with financial powers and objectives similar to those of the small business divisions of the Welsh and Scottish Development Agencies. As an interim step, CoSIRA should be given the additional financial powers already possessed by its counterparts in Scotland and Wales.

☐ A publicly underwritten loan guarantee scheme, with a limited subsidy element and some part of the risk retained by the banks, should be set up on an experimental basis as soon as possible.

☐ The Export Credits Guarantee Department should review its general responsiveness to the needs of small firms and should consider the appointment of a small firms's representative to the Export Guarantees Advisory Council.

☐ The banks should take steps to ensure that their policy in respect of the effect on existing facilities of ECGD-guaranteed advances is clearly understood at branch level.

☐ The National Research Development Corporation should review its practices in relation to the margins of its market to see whether it is possible to take on more projects put forward by proprietors of small businesses within their requirement to break even. It should also examine its working relations with other financial institutions in related fields.

☐ Consideration should be given to ways in which the present rather fragmented arrangements for co-operation between small firms and centres of higher education could be put on a more systematic basis. A pilot scheme should be established whereby educational establishments could obtain grants to undertake more prototype development and testing for small firms.

☐ The accountancy bodies should take steps to ensure that their members are both equipped and encouraged to take a more active role in providing adequate advice to their smaller business clients.

☐ The CBI and other representative bodies should consider whether there are any further steps that might usefully be taken to encourage larger firms to release executives to assist small businesses.

☐ Those public and private institutions concerned with providing finance to small firms who do not already do so should consider publication of the criteria which they apply when judging applications for assistance and of guidelines.

☐ A small statistical unit should be set up within the Department of Industry specifically charged with collecting and co-ordinating statistical information about small firms.

Midland opens independent business unit

Midland Bank has set up an Independent business banking unit to co-ordinate the group's existing services to small businesses and to act as a focal point for research into and development of further services.

One of the first functions of the unit will be to administer a new long-term loan scheme for independent businesses.

Secured loans ranging from £20,000 to £500,000 are to be made available for periods ranging from 10 years to 20 years to private companies, partnerships and sole traders for capital expenditure projects.

Selected customers will have the choice of a floating interest rate linked to Midland Bank base rate, or a fixed rate for the duration of the loan. The scheme, which will be open to Midland Bank customers, will be operated through the bank's branch network.

Stuart Graham, director and chief general manager, Midland Bank, said that the bank was accelerating its continued endeavours to improve every aspect of its operations to meet the needs of the small business.

Independent businesses, which ranged from sole traders and small partnerships to sizeable privately owned industrial companies, comprised the backbone of commercial banking business. 'Our new long-term loan scheme recognises the need of the independent business sector to borrow over a longer period than has been possible under traditional banking criteria.'

Williams welcomes Mitsubishi tv venture

Mitsubishi Electric (UK) is to purchase the Scottish subsidiary of the Norwegian colour-television manufacturer, Tandberg, now in liquidation. Welcoming the announcement, Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, said on 16 March that Mitsubishi Electric intended to introduce new technology, create and preserve employment and contribute, through exports, to the balance of payments. He said that this investment, by one of Japan's major electronic companies, was further evidence that Britain was attractive to Japanese companies as a manufacturing base in Europe.

'I see the project, with which my department and the Scottish Office have been closely involved, as part of the overall strategy for the industry, as recently recommended by the electronic consumer goods sector working party', he added. 'I hope it will lead to consideration by the company of larger possibilities in the electronics field.'

BL on target in spite of production interruptions

BL Ltd reduced its net loss from £51.9 million during 1977 to a net loss of £37.7 million in 1978. This reduction was achieved despite interruptions in production which reduced sales revenue by £300 million and trading profits by £50 million.

Chairman and chief executive Michael Edwardes, announcing the preliminary results on 15 March, described BL's profits as 'still inadequate' but he pointed out that considerable progress had been made towards the restructuring of BL Ltd. He emphasised that the company, its product range and its balance sheet were stronger. 'We are in fact mid-way through the recovery exercise,' he said.

All BL's financial objectives, although these were 'necessarily modest', were met in 1978, Mr Edwardes continued. These were in line with the corporate plan approved by both NEB and government.

BL had taken the first steps to restructure the organisation so that manufacture was concentrated in the right number of plants with the right number of men, Mr Edwardes said. The next step was to ensure that production reached profitable levels. 'Only by achieving that can we generate enough cash both to invest in the company's future to reward its workforce, and to provide the shareholders with profit.'

'BL mid-way through recovery: Edwardes.

BL's trading profit was up by 26 per cent to £71 million and sales revenue up by 18 per cent to a record £3,073 million in 1978. This was the first time the company had broken through the £3 billion barrier. In doing so, exports were pushed up to a record £910 million, making BL Britain's biggest net earner of foreign currency in manufacturing industry and biggest vehicle exporter, Mr Edwardes claimed.

In the car operations, a loss of £32 million in 1977 was turned round to give a profit before tax (and before exceptional manpower reductions) of £20 million in 1978.

Austin Morris had swung from a trading loss to a modest profit. The performance of the car operations offset the losses on the commercial vehicle and special products businesses, which lost £5 million compared to a profit of £35 million in 1977. The cost of production interruptions accounted for the bulk of the swing away from profits and 'Bathgate' was a very large part of the total cost, Mr Edwardes explained.

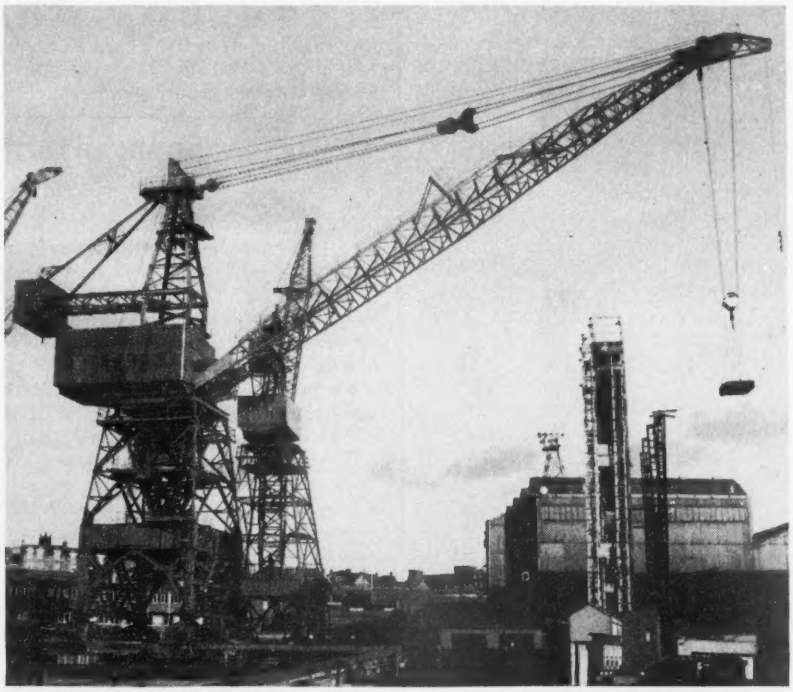
Further costs had been incurred while the business was being restructured. Manpower was reduced by some 15 000 worldwide in the period from 1 January 1977 to date. In addition to the exceptional manpower reductions, the company had also made extraordinary provisions of some £24 million to cover various factory closures including the Leyland Vehicles Southall plant, due to close this year. This closure would enable BL to load other Leyland vehicle plants and so secure the long-term future of the company as a whole.

'We must produce efficiently and consistently if we are to compete in the international motor industry,' Mr Edwardes continued. 'It can be done. The excellent performance recently at Cowley and at some Leyland vehicles plants, for example, shows that British factories can reach high levels of productivity. The challenge now is to achieve these levels of output across the company.'

BL was very anxious to implement its parity programme, he continued. The move to central bargaining and equal pay for similar jobs across the company was something that had been worked for over many years and 'we are still convinced it is the right path'.

Mr Edwardes explained that the company wanted to pay for performance given and while there was no intention of moving away from

Crane transporter for building bigger ships



Shipbuilding capacity at Austin and Pickersgill's Sunderland shipyard has been increased by a special crane transporter. Manufactured by Butters Cranes it consists of a large structural frame incorporating hydraulic lifting gear and is able to move these 40 tonne cranes weighing around 450 tonnes. Before the introduction of the transporter only one berth was serviced by the 40 tonne cranes. Now with the means of readily transporting cranes between berths, maximum lifting capacity can be provided at either berth to facilitate the building of larger ships with their heavier component parts.

the central aim of parity 'we are as a matter of urgency reviewing our position in order to see what options are available to us. Any payments will of course have to be earned by productivity. In the meantime, we hope that all the plants in BL cars achieve their production targets'.

Good performance had also been achieved at plants in Leyland vehicles, Mr Edwardes added. Albion had done particularly well, and Bathgate had shown noticeable improvement recently.

Seven banks back BL

BL also announced on 14 March that it is finalising negotiations for a total of £85,000,000 unsecured floating rate seven-year sterling loans from a group of seven foreign and British overseas banks.

This brings the total of seven-year unsecured loans raised by BL from the private sector in the past three months to £115,000,000.

Chairman and chief executive Michael Edwardes said that this was clearly a vote of confidence in the long-term future of BL from the international banking community.

The loan is a major contribution to the funding of BL's capital investment programme which includes such projects as the expansion of profitable Land-Rover and Range Rover production facilities.

New Leyland Nigeria plant to make Land-Rovers

A multi-million pound progressive manufacturing plant for Leyland commercial vehicles, Land-Rovers and Range Rovers was opened on 10 March in Ibadan, Nigeria. Built by Leyland Nigeria Ltd, a company jointly owned by Leyland Vehicles Ltd, the Nigerian government and a consortium of Nigerian banks, the new plant is the largest and most advanced of its type on the African continent, BL claims.

The new factory, which is now in production, will eventually be able to produce 12 000 vehicles a year with a labour-force of 1800. It has been built on a greenfield site at Ibadan, with easy road access to Lagos docks. The opening is on schedule – only 30 months after the founding of Leyland Nigeria Ltd. Leyland was selected to run the venture from more than 20 international truck makers in the expanding Nigerian marketplace.

It will be among the first in Africa to manufacture not only complete vehicles but also diesel engines. Initially, it will manufacture vehicles from UK-supplied components but will progressively utilise items made in Nigeria with an ultimate target of 100 per cent Nigerian vehicles scheduled for the early 1990s.

Chemical industry equipped to meet future demand

Fixed capital investment last year by the UK chemical industry was a record £1,045 million, representing a 27 per cent increase in cash terms over the previous year.

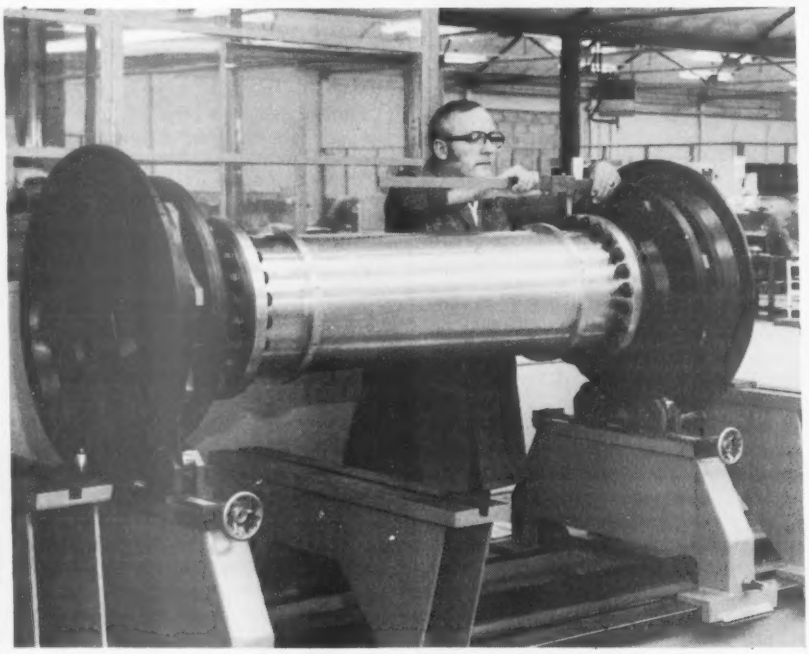
Introducing the industry's latest survey of investment intentions in London on 15 March, Jim Stewart, economics committee chairman of the Chemical Industries Association, said that the UK chemical industry, which last year provided a fifth of UK manufacturing investment, would invest about £6,700 million in fixed and new working capital over the three years, 1979-81.

Many had thought the industry's predictions for last year to be surprisingly high, he explained, but they had been fully justified by the out-turn, at £1,045 million on fixed investments alone. Spending in 1979 and 1980 appeared likely to be at a very high level.

For the three-year period 1978-80, investment (at constant prices) exceeded the previous peak (1969 to 1971) by several per cent. In cash terms it was, of course, many times higher, Mr Stewart continued.

This programme, unlike that in 1969 to 1971, was not causing too severe a strain on the process plant engineering and contracting industry, although construction delays remained an area of concern. The combination of present surplus capacity within the chemical industry and a large investment programme lead to a future position of very adequate UK capacity to meet all likely home and overseas market opportunities. Longer-term investment plans indicated some reduction in investment levels in 1981. Even so, expenditure in the period 1981-82 was projected to remain at an historically high level.

Power station couplings despatched



Some of the largest couplings ever manufactured by Flexibox are being delivered for the new CEGB Bulls Bridge power station in Middlesex, under a contract from Rolls-Royce. The couplings, which will be transmitting 35 000 kW at 3000 rpm will connect double-ended Rolls-Royce gas-turbines, each end driving into a central alternator. The picture shows one of the T series couplings being inspected prior to despatch.

BA set new financial target

The government has set British Airways a new statutory financial target of a 6 per cent rate of return to run from 1 April. This was announced by John Smith, Secretary of State for Trade, in a parliamentary question on 14 March.

Mr Smith said that in accordance with section 13 of the British Airways Act 1977, he had decided that a reasonable financial duty for British Airways would be to achieve on average a rate of return of 6 per cent per annum before interest but after supplementary depreciation on net assest revalued at current cost over the financial years 1979-80 to 1981-82.

The target is set in accordance with the principles given in the white paper on the nationalised industries (Cmnd 7131), and is designed to be consistent with British Airways earning a rate of return of at least 5 per cent in real terms on new investment.

Mr Smith added that it also took into account British Airways' aim to maintain its share of the international airline market. 'It implies increases in the productivity both of aircraft and of employees.'

British Airways' existing financial target

The businessman's guide to incentives available in the Areas for Expansion.

Capital grants

Manufacturers can obtain capital grants of 20% or 22% for new buildings; also for new plant and machinery in many Areas. ☐ *Tick here*

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Interest-relief grants, or favourable-term loans. Fixed-interest loans from European Community funds. ☐ *Tick here*

Rent-free factories

Up to 2 years rent-free (exceptionally, 5 years). Options to purchase on long lease. Wide range of new factories available. ☐ *Tick here*

Rent-free offices

Grants for office rents for up to 7 years. Grants for new jobs created within 5 years. Grants for staff moved. ☐ *Tick here*

Above is a brief guide to the investment incentives available in the Areas. They apply to companies moving into, or already in, the Areas for Expansion.

Greater benefits are available in Northern Ireland.

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To: The Industrial Expansion Team, Department of Industry, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QU.

Please send me full details of the benefits available in the Areas for Expansion, as I have indicated above.

Name _____

Position in company _____

Company _____

Nature of Business _____

Address _____

_____

T123/3G

Areas for Expansion

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY in association with the Scottish Economic Planning Department and the Welsh Office

Bahamas aviation minister visits Heathrow

Watching work in progress in the central control tower at Heathrow airport is Clement Maynard (left), Minister of Tourism and Aviation of the Bahamas. Explaining the operation is Maurice Bennett, chief officer of the Civil Aviation Authority, which administers the work of the air-traffic controllers. In 1978, nearly 27 million passengers passed through Heathrow's three terminal buildings and over 290 000 aircraft movements were recorded.

requires an average 11 per cent return on mean net assets (at historic cost) over the four years 1975–76 to 1978–79. The new target rate of return is on a current cost accounting basis.

Guernsey route appeal dismissed

An appeal by Air Wales against the Civil Aviation Authority's refusal of a licence to serve Guernsey from Cardiff has been dismissed by trade secretary John Smith.

The appeal followed a CAA hearing on 23 August which also considered a competing application by Dan-Air for a scheduled service licence for the route Bristol and/or Cardiff and/or Guernsey. The authority granted Dan-Air's application.

Jet and propeller aircraft to meet new noise standards

New and more stringent noise certification requirements are to be introduced for new types of subsonic jet aircraft. The requirements will also affect certain derived versions of earlier types.

This is the effect of the Air Navigation (Noise Certification) order laid before parliament on 14 March by Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping. It implements policies on the control of aircraft noise at source to which the government has been committed following international discussions over a number of years. These policies are already well known to the civil aviation industry.

The order will also introduce for the first time noise certification standards for propeller-driven aircraft, and extend the applicability of the original subsonic-jet certification standards to small subsonic-jet aircraft weighing 5700 kg or less.

The new standards have all been agreed within the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the forum for international discussion on aircraft noise emission standards in which the UK plays a leading part.

As foreshadowed in the 1978 white paper on airport policy, the order will allow the government to prohibit the use of all non-noise-certificated subsonic jet aircraft on the UK register after 1 January 1986.

New proposals for reporting accidents at work

Serious and fatal accidents to members of the public caused by work activity will have to be notified to the local health and safety authority if draft regulations published by the Health and Safety Commission are approved. The regulations simplify and extend the law on notification of accidents and dangerous occurrences to cover most people at work.

Information received would assist the commission in measuring safety performance and in judging trends and make it easier to formulate policy. The new arrangements would enable the executive to investigate more quickly certain individual accidents and dangerous occurrences.

Main provisions of the proposed regulations are:

- ☐ all fatal accidents and those resulting in serious injury to people at work should be notified as soon as possible to the authority responsible for enforcing the Health and Safety at Work Act in the area of work concerned
- ☐ written confirmation of such accidents should be sent to the enforcing authority within seven days
- ☐ fatal accidents caused by a work activity to members of the public should also be notified as soon as possible and accidents to the public requiring hospital treatment should be notified in writing within seven days
- ☐ accidents which result in employees being absent from work for more than three days should be notified within seven days
- ☐ dangerous occurrences as defined in schedules to the proposed regulations should be notified
- ☐ employers should keep records of all notifiable accidents and dangerous occurrences. Records should also be kept of cases of occupational ill health notified to them by the Department of Health and Social Security, where claims have been made for industrial injury benefit for 'prescribed' occupational diseases.

The proposed regulations would simplify the notification procedure for most employers by calling for only one form to be completed and for one enforcing authority, which would pass the information to any other department or agency concerned.

A schedule to the document lists the types of dangerous occurrence that should be notified. A definition of 'serious personal injury' for the draft regulations is also set out in the document. These would usually be injuries requiring admission into hospital for treatment.

The document suggests that separate regulations should be made to cover the notification of accidents and dangerous occurrences involving off-shore installations and submarine pipelines, because of the special circumstances which exist off-shore.

The proposed regulations would not provide for the notification of most accidents on the public highway, where investigation is carried out by the police. The document also proposes that incidents involving spillage of dangerous substances on the road should be covered by the proposed regulations for the conveyance of dangerous substances by road.

The document includes guidance notes which give detailed information about the proposed regulations as they apply to employers in different industries and others who would have responsibilities under the proposed regulations.

The proposed draft regulations have taken into account, as far as possible, comments on the previous consultative document on the notification of accidents and dangerous occurrences. Comments on this consultative document should be sent to Mrs G. A. C. Berenzweig, Safety Policy Division, Health and Safety Executive, Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, London W2 4TF, by 4 June 1979.

Accident report warning about hyperthermia

Crews and passengers of helicopters operating over cold water should wear anti-exposure clothing says a report just released into an accident involving a helicopter ditching in the North Sea off Aberdeen in October 1977.

The accident, investigated by the Department of Trade's accident investigation branch, involved a Sikorsky S61N helicopter which was forced down into the sea following a failure in the rotor blade system. The crew and passengers, not wearing protective clothing, were forced to abandon the helicopter and were subsequently rescued suffering from the effects of hyperthermia.

Among other recommendations the accident report makes is that a search and rescue helicopter should be based in the Shetland Islands and that pilots when operating over water should wear life jackets at all times.

Health and Safety Executive Publications

The 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act gave the Health and Safety Commission responsibility for keeping some 25 million people informed of guidelines and regulations for their health and safety in places of work. The Commission has undertaken progressively to revise, standardise and extend the existing regulations and recommended practices. HSC/HSE publications reflect the major programme of research, inspection and consultation which is in hand.

Priced publications are obtainable only from HMSO or through booksellers. Some general leaflets, advice and information are available free of charge from HSE Area Officers or by post from the General Enquiry Point, Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, London W2 4TF (Tel. 01-229 3456 ext. 734).

Annual Reports

Health and Safety: Commission Report 1977-78 (£1.75) ISBN 011 883221 2
Health and Safety: Industry and Services 1977 (£2.75) ISBN 011 883222 0
Health and Safety: Mines and Quarries 1977 (£2.25) ISBN 011 883201 8
Health and Safety: Research 1977 (£2.50) ISBN 011 883210 7
Health and Safety: Agriculture 1976 (£1) ISBN 883214 X.
Industrial Air Pollution 1976 (£3) ISBN 011 883074 0
Mines and Quarries District Reports 1977 (£2) each)
Health and Safety: Agriculture 1976 (£1) ISBN 011 883021 X
Health and Safety: Nuclear Establishments 1975–76 (£1.15) ISBN 011 883018 X
Health and Safety Employment Medical Advisory Service Report 1975–76 (£1.50) ISBN 011 883017 1

Advisory Committee Reports and reports of special investigations etc.

The Flixborough Disaster (£2.50) ISBN 011 361075 0
The explosion at Laporte Industries Ltd April 1975 (£1.25) ISBN 011 880333 6
The explosion at Houghton Main Colliery June 1975 (£1) ISBN 011 880328 X
The explosion at Appleby-Frodingham steelworks, Scunthorpe. November 1975 (£4) ISBN 011 88033 4
The explosion at the Dow Chemical Factory, Kings Lynn. June 1976 (£1) ISBN 011 883003 1
A survey of respiratory disease in the Pottery Industry (35p) ISBN 011 880346 8
Success and failure in accident prevention (80p) ISBN 011 880330 1
Final Report of the Advisory Committee on Falsework (£2) ISBN 011 880347 6
First Report of the National Committee on steep seam working in British coal mines (60p) ISBN 011 410248 1
Advisory committee on Major Hazards: First Report (£1) ISBN 011 880884 2
Selected written evidence submitted to the Advisory Committee on Asbestos 1976/77 (£5) ISBN 011 883004 X
Asbestos Health Hazards and Precautions, Interim statement (10p) ISBN 011 881114 2
Safe Manriding in Mines Parts 1A and 1B (£5) ISBN 011 880491 X
Digest of Pneumoconiosis 1975 (£2) ISBN 011 882006 0
Some aspects of the safety of nuclear installations in Great Britain (Replies to questions submitted by the Secretary of State for Energy to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate in October 1976) (£1) ISBN 011 8830015
One hundred fatal accidents in construction (90p) ISBN 011 883071 6
The Fire on HMS Glasgow. 23 September 1976 (£2.75) ISBN 011 883075 9
Asbestos: Measurement and Monitoring of Asbestos in Air (£1) ISBN 011 883084 8
Asbestos: Work on Thermal and Acoustic Insulation and Sprayed Coatings (50p) ISBN 011 883083 X
Canvey: an investigation of potential hazards from operations in the Canvey Island/Thurrock area (£10) ISBN 011 883200 X (Summary of Report (£1) ISBN 011 883203 4)
Shift Work and Health (£1) ISBN 011 883216 6
The fire and explosion at Braehead container depot, Renfrew, 4 January 1977 (£1.75) ISBN 011 883220 4

Health and Safety (General) Series booklets

1 Polyurethane foam (£1) ISBN 011 883208 5
2 Poisonous chemicals on the farm (£1) ISBN 011 883215 8
3 Highly flammable materials on construction sites (£1) ISBN 011 883218 2
4 Highly flammable liquids in the paint industry (£1) ISBN 011 883219 0

Health and Safety (Regulations) Series booklets

1 Packaging and labelling of dangerous substances (60p) ISBN 011 8832131.

Health and Safety at Work Series booklets

3 Safety Devices for Hand and Foot Operated Presses (0 11 880862 1) (30p)
4 Safety in the use of Abrasive Wheels (0 11 880866 4) (65p)
5 Cloakroom Accommodation and Washing Facilities (0 11 880850 8) 45p)
6A Safety in Construction Work: General Site Safety Practice *(Reprinting)* (0 11 360120 4)
6B Safety in Construction Work: Roofing 1974 (0 11 880870 2) (16p)
6C Safety in Construction Work: Excavations (0 11 360101 8) *(Reprinting)*
6D Safety in Construction Work: Scaffolding (11 881452 4) (30p)
6E Safety in Construction Work: Demolition (11 360848 9) (25p)
11 Guarding of Hand-fed Platen Machines (0 11 880873 7) (18p)
12 Safety at Drop-Forging Hammers (0 11 880855 9) (18p)
14 Safety in the use of Mechanical Power Presses (0 11 880855 0) (75p)
18 Industrial Dermatitis: Precautionary Measures (0 11 880877 X)
20 Drilling Machines: Guarding of Spindles and Attachments 1974 (0 11 880865 6) (35p)
22 Dust Explosions in Factories (0 11 880851 6) (30p)
23 Hours of Employment of Women and Young Persons (0 11 880876 1) (25p)
24 Electrical Limit Switches and their Applications (0 11 880840 1) (25p)
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27 Precautions in the use of Nitrate Salt Baths (0 11 880880 X) (25p)
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30 Storage of Liquified Petroleum Gas at Factories (0 11 880882 6) (45p)
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33 Safety in the use of Guillotines and Shears (0 11 880861 3) (30p)
34 Guide to the use of Flame Arresters and Explosion Reliefs *(Reprinting)*
35 Basic Rules for Safety and Health at Work (0 11 880857 5) (20p)
36 First Aid in Factories (0 11 880842 7) (25p)
41 Safety in the use of Woodworking Machines (0 11 880837 0) (£1)
42 Guarding of Cutters of Horizontal Milling Machines (0 11 880871 0) (30p)
44 Asbestos: Health Precautions in Industry 1974 (0 11 880879 6) (25p)
45 Seats for Workers in Factories, Offices and Shops (0 11 880883 4) (55p)
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47 Safety in the Stacking of Materials (0 11 880839 7) 40p)
48 First Aid in Offices, Shops and Railway Premises (0 11 883132 1) (25p)
49A Safety in the Cotton and Allied Fibres Industry. Opening Processes (0 11 360851 9) (25p)
49B Safety in the Cotton and Allied Fibres Industry. Card-room Processes (0 11 360854 3) (40p)
49C Safety in the Cotton and Allied Fibres Industry. Spinning, winding and sizing (0 11 360858 6) (45p)
49D Safety in the Cotton and Allied Fibres Industry, Fabric Production (011 883078 3) (60p)
50 Welding and Flame Cutting using Compressed Gases (011 883080 5) (25p)

*** Health and Safety Commission leaflets**

HSC 2 The Act outlined
HSC 3 Advice to employers
HSC 4 Advice to the self-employed
HSC 5 Advice to employees
HSC 6 Employers Policy Statements
HSC 7 Regulations, codes of practice guidance literature
HSC 8 Safety Committees guidance to employers whose employees are not members of recognised independent trade unions
HSC 9 Time off for the training of safety representatives (Code of Practice)

*** Agricultural Safety leaflets**

AS1 A short guide to the 1974 Act
AS2 Tractors safety cabs
AS3 Bulls
AS4 Mushroom worker's lung
AS5 Farmer's lung
AS6 Crop spraying
AS7 Guns
AS8 Noise
AS10 Children
AS14 Cyanide gassing powders – Safe handling
AS16 Brakes for tractor-trailer safety
AS21 First aid in agriculture

*** EMAS leaflets**

MS(A)1 Lead and you
MS(A)3 Asbestos and you
MS(A)4 Study of asbestos workers
MS(A)5 The health of workers engaged in antimony oxide
MS(A)6 Vinyl chloride and you
MS(B)1 Ulceration of the skin and inside the nose caused by chrome
MS(B)3 Anthrax
MS(B)4 Effects on the skin of pitch and tar
MS(B)5 Skin cancer caused by oil
MS(B)6 Occupational industrial dermatitis
MS(B)7 Poisoning by pesticides

Guidance Notes

Guidance Notes (price 30p each) are too numerous to list here but are published under five headings: Medical; Environmental Hygiene; Chemical Safety; Plant and Machinery; General.

Enquiries to HMSO

* *Free of charge*

Instructions for ship's radar surveyors

Instructions for the guidance of surveyors inspecting radar installations on merchant ships have been published as a book. They also indicate to owners, masters, crews, shipbuilders and radar installation companies the requirements that vessels should meet and various additional recommendations.

Under the Merchant Shipping (Radar) Rules 1976, ships of over 1600 gross tons registered in the United Kingdom are required to carry one approved radar. Surveys of radar equipment by the Department of Trade's surveyors will be phased in later this year.

'Survey of merchant shipping radar installations: instructions for the guidance of surveyors' is published by HMSO, 85p.

Rescue of the year shield for Scottish Coastguards

The Department of Trade rescue shield is to be awarded jointly to Aberdeen Coastguard and the coastguard resue companies at Aberdeen, Bel Helvie and Cruden Bay, who all took part in the rescue of the seven-man crew of the oil-rig standby vessel, *Coastal Emperor*, last December.

The vessel ran aground in gale force winds at Blackdog beach about 4½ miles north of Aberdeen. Despite advice from the coastguards, one crew member climbed overboard into the surf and was immediately swept off his feet. Two coastguards entered the water and dragged him ashore, showing a complete disregard for their own safety.

The citation for the shield says, 'The rescue, which was completed without injury or loss of life took place at night in gale force winds and was made more difficult by the fact that, in the earlier stages, very little co-operation was received from the crew. But for the prompt action of the coastguard officers concerned, one of the crew might well have drowned'.

Coastguard rescue companies are manned by volunteer auxiliary coastguards working under the supervision of regular coastguards.

Lonrho mergers to go ahead

Go-ahead has been given for the proposed acquisition by Lonrho of Scottish and Universal Investments (Suits) and the resulting merger between Lonrho and House of Fraser.

In its report on the two potential mergers, publication of which was announced on 15 March by Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission concluded that neither would be against the public interest. In these circumstances, there are no powers under the Fair Trading Act 1973 to prevent them.

Replying to a parliamentary question on 15 March Mr Hattersley explained that the commission's unanimous conclusion regarding the proposed acquisition of Suits by Lonrho was that, although there would be some risk of detriment to the public interest, the degree of risk would not be sufficiently great for it to find that the acquisition might be expected to operate against the public interest. In reaching that conclusion, the commission had taken into account the fact that the acquisition of Suits would increase Lonrho's direct shareholding in the House of Fraser and the influence that Lonrho was able to exert on House of Fraser.

The commission had also concluded unanimously that the merger situation in respect of Lonrho and House of Fraser that would be created if the arrangements in contemplation for the merger of Lonrho and Suits were carried into effect might be expected not to operate against the public interest. That conclusion was confined to the arrangements then in contemplation which, in the commission's judgement, would result in Lonrho acquiring ability materially to influence the policy of House of Fraser, not control of that policy.

The commission had expressed no view of what the effect on the public interest would be if Lonrho sought eventually to acquire control of House of Fraser or to promote other mergers involving House of Fraser and Lonrho which would eventually diminish the existing autonomy of House of Fraser.

The report (HC261) is available from HMSO, price £1.50.

Changes in VAT operation

Five Treasury orders laid before the House of Commons will, subject to parliamentary approval, come into operation on 2 April.

Value Added Tax (Finance) Order 1979 (SI 1979/243) extends the exemption from value added tax under item 2 of group 5 of the exemption schedule to include certain additional fees such as option fees, documentation fees and similar charges associated with instalment credit finance agreements, provided such fees do not exceed £10 in any agreement.

Value Added Tax (Medical Goods and Services) Order 1979 (SI 1979/246) varies group 14 of the zero-rate schedule and group 7 of the exemption schedule to take account of changes in the statutory medical registers introduced by the Medical Act 1978. These changes are technical.

Valued Added Tax (Aids for the Disabled) Order 1979 (SI 1979/245) makes technical amendments to the law zero-rating the supply of specially designed or adapted tape-playing machines for use by the blind or severely handicapped.

Valued Added Tax (International Services) Order 1979 (SI 1979/244) makes limited changes in group 9 of the zero-rate schedule which include extending zero-rating to:

1 Supply of taxable (ie non-exempt) insurance or re-insurance services to persons outside the EEC and the Isle of Man.

2 Advertising services which take the form of an exhibition or a conference in the UK, when supplied to overseas persons

3 Services of a consultant which may also be scientific or valuation services or take the form of physical work performed on goods, when carried out in the UK for an overseas person.

Value Added Tax (Donated Medical Equipment) Order 1979 (SI 1979/242) extends the zero-rating of certain medical or scientific equipment, when purchased with charitable funds, to cases where such equipment is to be donated to regional and area health authorities in England, health boards in Scotland or to social services boards in Northern Ireland.

Funeral code of practice welcomed by Hattersley

A voluntary code of practice for funeral directors has been welcomed by Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

The code, launched by the National Association of Funeral Directors, provides for certain essential information to be offered, including a specification for a basic simple funeral, written estimates and itemised accounts, as well as a conciliation and arbitration procedure for disputes. It follows extensive discussion between the Director General of Fair Trading, the National Association of Funeral Directors, the Co-operative Funeral Service Managers' Association and consumer groups.

In welcoming the code, the secretary of state said that it represented a positive response to the recommendations of the Price Commission report of March 1977. The code was a significant step forward and would help people at a time when they were already facing the many other problems caused by a death.

Mr Hattersley said he was particularly pleased with the way in which the code offered a helpful solution to the difficult question of prices and charges by providing for the issue of informative leaflets. Since funeral directors had to do their work at a time when their clients were distressed, it was important that all the relevant details were clearly understood. The measures that they proposed would help to create confidence.

In establishing and launching the code, the National Association of Funeral Directors had displayed their clear understanding of the special relationship they had with their clients.

More time to examine car spares

More time has been given to the Price Commission for the completion of its examination into the manufacture and distribution of car spares. Particulars of the variation, which was made on 16 March, are as follows:

Whereas on 10 August 1978 the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, pursuant to section 10(1) of the Price Commission Act 1977, gave a direction to the Price Commission requiring them to examine and, before 31 March 1979, to make a report to him on a question relating to prices, costs and margins in the manufacture and distribution of parts for motor cars of types commonly supplied for private use:

Now the Secretary of State, pursuant to section 10(3) of the act and after consulting the Price Commission and the Director General of Fair Trading, hereby varies the said direction so as to require the Price Commission to make the said report before 31 May 1979 instead of before 31 March 1979.

Price Commission investigates electricity prices

Domestic electricity prices are to be frozen while the Price Commission investigates proposed increases. During the investigation, commercial and industrial price increases will go ahead as planned, but domestic increases will not be implemented until the commission is satisfied that they are necessary to meet the financial target set by the government for the electricity supply industry as a whole.

The electricity council, on behalf of the 12 area electricity boards in England and Wales, notified the commission of intended increases which would add, on average, 8.6 per cent to the bills of quarterly billed consumers (mainly domestic users) and 3.7 per cent to the bills of monthly billed customers, mainly commercial and industrial users. With the addition of the fuel cost adjustments, the average 3.7 per cent increase for monthly billed customers could rise to about 8 per cent over the year.

Following observations made in a Price Commission report published in January 1978, the area boards have decided to discontinue the practice of a separate fuel cost adjustment charge for quarterly billed customers: it is being retained for monthly billed customers.

The commission will submit its report, with recommendations, to the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection in mid-June. Those wishing to make representations to the Price Commission should write to the Secretary, Price Commission, Market Towers, 1 Nine Elms Lane, London SW8 5NQ.

Degree day service: figures for February

Degree day figures for February, published by the Department of Energy, are shown in the table. This service is designed to help industry and commerce improve the efficiency with which space heating systems are used.

The figures are a record of the extent and length of time in a particular month that the external temperature fell below a base figure of 15.5 degrees C (60 degrees F). Because this affects the amount of fuel needed to provide a given level of space heating, the figures can be used to check on the efficiency of heating systems. By comparing the amount of fuel used with the number of degree days in monthly periods of different years, energy managers and others can monitor the performance of heating plant and operate it more economically.

Detailed information about the system is contained in a free booklet *Degree Days* (no. 7 in the Fuel Efficiency series) available from the Library, Department of Energy, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ, tel. 01-211 3394. It explains the theory and practice of using the figures and contains a map showing the locations of the 17 Meteorological Office stations and the regions covered.

February degree days (base temperature 15.5 degrees C)

Region	Calculated average for Feb 1957–77	1978 Feb	1979 Feb
Thames Valley	306	337	385
South East	328	363	400
Southern	311	345	385
South West	275	298	333
Severn Valley	313	343	401
Midland	339	375	424
West Pennines	325	351	402
North West	335	377	400
Borders	345	399	397
North East	339	411	419
East Pennines	328	389	420
East Anglia	340	375	421
West Scotland	339	403	414
East Scotland	348	428	412
North East Scotland	362	434	420
Wales	305	335	370
Northern Ireland	327	349	385

Official appointments

British Steel Corporation. Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has appointed Ronald Halstead and Alastair Morton as part-time members of the British Steel Corporation for terms of three years from 1 March. Mr Varley has also re-appointed Lord Gregson as a part-time member of the corporation for a further term of three years.

Government sales

4 and 5 April 1979 – Vehicles

Location:
Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot, Ruddington, Notts

Auctioneers:
Walker Walton and Hanson (Dept L), Byard Lane, Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham (0602 54272).

Lots lying at Ruddington and Farnborough including Minis, Morris 1000s, 1800s, Escort 1.1 and 1.3 estates, Mini vans, Bedford CF vans and minibuses, JU250 minibuses, and a large quantity of Landrovers. Bedford RL and TK trucks, Bedford coaches, Coles cranes, Albion machinery vans, wheeled loading shovels, Hyster and Climax fork lift trucks and many other items. Handbooks and parts lists for military vehicles and equipment.

Catalogues, which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 40p, postage 15p.

WEMBLEY AUCTION SALES 1979

3 APRIL

View Days: Day preceding and morning of sale

Location: Department of the Environment
Property Services Agency
Supplies Stores
India Pavilion
Exhibition Grounds
Wembley, Middx.
Tel. 01-903 2508

Description of Goods: Miscellaneous office equipment and furniture etc. (Potential buyers are advised to refer to the official catalogue available from the auctioneers, price 20p)

Auctioneers: Messrs Hollingsworth
Westcombe House
56/58 Whitcomb Street
Leicester Square
London WC2H 7DR
Tel. 01-893 1875

Oil pollution seminar reviews emergency arrangements

Since the stranding of the *Torrey Canyon* in 1967, the Department of Trade has been progressively developing its contingency arrangements for dealing with oil spills. In the wake of the *Amoco Cadiz* incident, it was decided to undertake a thorough review to see whether these arrangements could be further improved. Seacop, the Seminar on Emergency Arrangements for Combating Oil Pollution, held in London on 19 March, brought together government and many of those concerned with oil pollution to report on what has been achieved to date and to discuss arrangements for the future. The impact of marine oil pollution on the natural environment, research and development into the problem, and international developments were among the topics discussed, the main points of which are summarised below.

Government plans to increase spending on combating marine oil pollution represent a 'reasonable balance' between doing too little and spending very large sums which would not, however, prevent the worst results of a major catastrophe.

Emphasising this point in his opening speech at Seacop, trade secretary John Smith said that the latest government proposals involved an extra £1½ million of capital costs and £1½ million of recurrent costs. This was apart from additional staff who might be needed by the new Marine Pollution Control Unit – one of whose main tasks would be the review and development of UK contingency plans. Allowing for the new unit and for the enhanced research and development effort, the recurrent cost of the government's anti-pollution effort would be nearly doubled, he added.

Government support

Although responsibility for dealing with oil pollution on the coast lay with maritime local authorities, J. R. Niven, under-secretary at the Department of the Environment, said the government was ready to assist in the event of a major pollution of beaches on a scale that was too great for local authorities to handle within their own resources. This would call for a judgement in each case by the Secretary of State for the Environment who would then set up a Coastal Pollution Control Centre (CPCC) near to the area of major beach pollution.

The DoE was already establishing its stockpile of pollution clearance equipment which would include booms, spraying equipment, skimmers, oil mops and other specialised items. It was expected that £100,000 would have been spent in this financial year and about £500,000 next year.

Mr Niven added that as well as maintaining the current research expenditure of some £120,000 a year, additional funds of up to £100,000 would be available in the coming financial year. As a first step, a full-scale review of beach cleaning and disposal problems and methods was being instituted, with particular attention being paid to the treatment of shingle beaches and disposal problems.

Mr Niven explained that local authorities would be asked to co-operate with each other by building into their plans arrangements for rapid joint action to set up a local coordination centre which would become the base for a CPCC.

Putting the local authority point of view, Wing Commander Charlier, Suffolk county council oil pollution officer, said that the clearance operation in the event of a major spillage must be regarded as a considerable commitment. Not only did a number of county and district staff have to be seconded to the operation but in some circumstances, as in the case of the *Eleni V*, the clearance could continue for a number of weeks with all the consequent problems of maintaining staff rotas and manning of equipment and headquarters.

'Then necessity for mounting this type of operation on a joint basis with central and local government is paramount as offshore, inshore spraying and beach clearance operations are interdependent and do require a co-ordinated strategy. It has been found if this is accomplished from the beginning of the clearance operation, this will be the most effective and efficient method of achieving the objective in the shortest possible time.'

International effort

At international level, C. P. Srivastava, secretary-general of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (Imco), said that everything that could be done to eliminate intentional pollution of the seas by ships, to reduce accidental pollution, and to mitigate its consequences was being done by Imco.

'Efforts at the international level must now be matched by a national commitment by Imco member countries to the implementation and enforcement of Imco's global standards of safety and pollution prevention.'

There was no doubt, he went on, that deliberate discharge of oil into the sea was decreasing rapidly. In future, more and more ships would be better constructed, equipped and operated by better trained crews. There was ample evidence, he said, that certain flags were now committed to improving the safety of their fleets.

Safe navigation in congested waters and in close proximity to coastlines would in future, he explained, be better enforced and more and more countries would be better able to react

quickly to a pollution incident when it did occur.

Despite recent setbacks, Mr Srivastava was confident that all the evidence pointed to an 'increased worldwide commitment to safer shipping and cleaner oceans'.

Rear Admiral Michael Stacey, director of the Marine Pollution Control Unit, pointed out that although oil spill contingency arrangements had been developed progressively in the UK since 1969 and had largely been successful, refinements were still being made and, in the nature of things, there would always be room for improvement. A number of specific improvements were being introduced, he said, following the recent Department of Trade report, 'Improved arrangements to combat pollution at sea'.

These included improved alerting procedures in the vital early stages of an incident; further improvements to the communications facilities used in a pollution incident; an increased ship-based dispersant spraying capability; financial provision for a limited deployment of a ship-based oil recovery system and for aerial spraying; provision for a substantial increase in research and development expenditure; and the establishment of two caches of specialised equipment for use in off-loading a vessel of its cargoes and bunkers.

Rear Admiral Stacey said that the Marine Pollution Contol Unit provided a focal point within the Department of Trade.

'We will spend much of our time in the field maintaining personal relationships and establishing plans with the very large number of organisations and authorities within the UK and also with the Republic of Ireland and the north European countries whose waters are adjacent to ours.'

Oil industry's approach

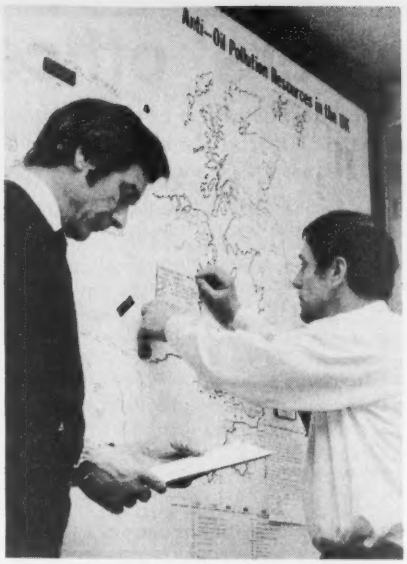
Describing the oil industry's approach to the problem of marine pollution Captain Ralph Maybourn, from B.P. Tanker Company special adviser to the unit, said that operational pollution, which resulted from the loss of oil to the sea as a result of routine activities such as pumping bilges and cleaning cargo tanks, was being brought under control and posed little threat to coastlines. However, it had to be expected that 'accidental pollution would continue to occur.'

'The major catastrophe is likely to be infrequent – probably less that one per five years in UK waters – but significant incidents will happen more often. The latter should be within the capacity of a well-planned contingency organisation.'

Captain Maybourn emphasised that efforts to ensure strict observance of standards required by international conventions 'must continue'. The most effective single measure, he said, was 'port state inspection'. But this would only succeed if the responsible government department had the necessary trained manpower to carry it out.

'The independent tanker industry', Captain Maybourn pointed out, 'can do little to mitigate the consequences once oil has been spilled, but the major oil companies have significant expertise and resources which should be integrated into any national plan.'

Dr Douglas Cormack, head of the oil pollution division at Warren Spring Laboratory, in his outline of current spill response related research and development said there was absolutely no doubt that any successful response to oil at sea required air surveillance. Slick movement on wind and tide should be predicted on the basis of the model resulting from the study of the effects of these factors on experimental and real spills at sea.



Department of Trade marine emergency information room.

Recovery of oil was to be preferred to dispersion, provided it could be made to work, he said. But, to date, no satisfactory recovery operation had been conducted at sea, although much experience had been gained in the search for such equipment through trials under real operating conditions in the preence of oil.

Equipment had now been selected for the Department of Environment stockpiles for beach and inshore use. This represented 'a considerable enhancement of capability'.

One new promising development was a scheme for separating oil from contaminated sand and shingle. 'It will,' Dr Cormack said, 'alleviate the very great problems currently experienced in the disposal of large quantities of oily beach material in local authority tips.'

Oil on the surface of the open sea had not been found to cause adverse effects on fisheries or marine food chains, said Dr A. D. McIntyre, of the Marine Laboratory at the Scottish Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. In coastal regions, where oil could make contact with the bottom and become stranded on the shore, it might damage organisms by smothering or by toxic impact. Where oil became incorporated in the sediments, these effects could remain for years. Dr McIntyre stressed the importance of considering these facts in any clean-up operation.

Oil pollution has been damaging wildlife since before the First World War. Professor G. Matthews, deputy director and director of research at the Wildfowl Trust, pointed out, however, that the damage caused to wildlife by oil pollution depended far more on the time of year, location and type of oil involved than on the amount spilled.

Birds were the most obvious sufferers, while plants and animals inhabiting exposed shores were generally not harmed, he pointed out.

Last year, the government had announced that the central objectives of oil clean-up policy would be to minimise damage to seabirds, fisheries, ecologically sensitive areas and amenity beaches. However, 'while all those concerned with the conservation of Britain's wildlife will welcome improvements to the government's contingency plans and will welcome even more developments in international legislation aimed at reducing both operational and accidental oil pollution, enforcement is a major factor'.

Professor Matthews said that the merchant shipping bill currently passing through parliament would give the government powers to ratify a number of international oil pollution conventions. It was to be hoped that future efforts would concentrate on improving the enforcement of international legislation while at the same time keeping under review such crucial matters as the adequacy of sea charting and shipping routes.

No unilateral action

Summing up, Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, said all new points raised in discussion at the seminar would be considered. On one issue the government's view held firm – under no circumstances would unilateral action on oil pollution be preferred to working under an internationally agreed and recognised system.

Tankers illegally discharging oil round Scottish Isles

Grave concern was expressed at a meeting of the standing committee on pollution clearance at sea (Scopcas), on 15 March, that, apart from the environmental damage caused by the spillage of heavy fuel oil at the Sullom Voe terminal on 30 December, some tankers coming to load crude oil at the terminal were illegally discharging oily ballast water in the seas around Shetland and Orkney. This is resulting in further serious damage to wild life and to beaches as well as possible interference with fisheries.

The committee, which was chaired for the first time by Rear Armiral Michael Stacey, director of the Department of Trade's Marine Pollution Control Unit, welcomed the Sullom Voe Association's action which requires tankers in waters around Orkney and Shetland en route to Sullom Voe to advise the terminal of their exact position and route when north of latitude 58° 20′. Aerial surveillance will be maintained over the route and any oil pollution observed fully investigated. Ships seen to be causing oil pollution will be reported to the authorities and may be subject to extensive delays at the terminal. Measures are in hand to ensure that tanker owners make sure that crews are advised of these measures.

The Department of Trade had earlier sent a marine surveyor to the Shetlands and has appointed a permanent surveyor at Lerwick. Officials of the Department also met representatives of the Shetland and Orkney islands councils and the oil companies on 15 March to review the routeing of tankers to and from Sullom Voe and Flotta, and the availability of tugs there.

Official Receivers' offices

Official Receivers are responsible for the administration of cases in bankruptcy and compulsory liquidation. Inquiries should be addressed to the nearest Official Receiver.

High Court of Justice
Senior Official Receiver: J. B. Clemetson

Bankruptcy
Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY (Tel: 01-405 7641)
Official Receivers: D. A. Thorne; G. B. Gillvray

Companies Winding-up
Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2HD
(Tel: 01-583 8931)
Official Receivers: L. R. Bates; N. Saddler; H. W. J. Christmas

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J. F. O'Reilly

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Parliament

Monday, 12 March

Trade discussions with EEC

Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what discussions he was engaged in with the EEC commission on trade and related matters, and if he would give a detailed breakdown of each topic under discussion with special reference to EEC proposals, actual or envisaged, and their status within the community's legislative machinery.

Mr Meacher said that his department was in constant touch with the EEC commission on a wide variety of issues. At present these included the multilateral trade negotiations; the trade aspects of enlargement of the EEC; community preparations for Unctad conferences; harmonisation of rules and regulations governing the supervision of insurance; company law harmonisation; the community's position on the UN liner code convention; a draft directive on aircraft noise; and the location of the community trade mark office. Developments of major importance to his department were published in the white papers on developments in the European communities; the latest (Cmnd 7849) covering the period July to December 1978 was published on 22 February. In addition all proposals for legislation by the council were deposited in parliament and considered by the House of Commons select committee on European legislation.

ECGD cover for Chile

Ray Whitney (Wycombe) asked the Secretary of State for Trade when he expected to restore medium-term Export Credit Guarantee Department cover for Chile, in view of the fact that only £25 million outstanding debt to the United Kingdom remained unpaid.

Mr Smith said that some £20 million of the £50 million claims paid by ECGD in respect of defaults by successive Chilean governments was still to be recovered. This was not an inconsiderable sum and he was not prepared to authorise the resumption of ECGD cover for new medium-term credits.

Steel dumping

Tom Litterick (Birmingham, Selly Oak) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what reply had been made to the representations made to the EEC by his department on behalf of the British metal fastener industry about the dumping of steel by certain European steel producers.

Mr Meacher said no reply had been made as yet. The commission required detailed *prima facie* evidence of price breaches. This was hard to come by but the industry was expected to assemble this evidence soon.

Cheap imports: cutlery

John Osborn (Sheffield, Hallam) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what further discussions he had had with the British cutlery industry about cheap imports, and when he expected to be in a position to report about the British position to the European commission which was assessing the impact of cheap imports on the European cutlery industry and the need to restructure the industry.

Mr Meacher said that a working party was considering the policy implications of the factual survey of the industry's performance 1972-76 which was already completed. He would consider in the light of its report what action should be taken with the European commission.

Paper and board

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what was the position of his department on the new list of priority items for concession, in the paper and board field, tabled by the United States of America as part of the Gatt, Tokyo round; whether his department had received representations from the British Paper and Board Industry Federation concerning the current Gatt negotiations with particular reference to the United States of America which was seeking further concessions in the tariff for kraft liner; and what response his department would make to the EEC commission's recommendation to the council of ministers that they should accept United States demands for further concessions in the paper and board section, in particular kraft F grades and coated foodboard.

Mr Smith answered that as reported in the press, the United States had been pressing the community in the multilateral trade negotiations for further concessions on certain paper tariffs, including the tariffs on kraft paper and board, and on coated foodboard. He regarded the tariff cuts proposed by the United States as excessive, as also the extent to which the commission proposed the community should accede to them. He had indicated to the commission that this was the British government's view, and he was continuing to press for any concessions the community made to be as limited as possible. He had received full and helpful representations from the British Paper and Board Industry Federation, with whom his department had had detailed discussions. Their views were being taken fully into consideration.

In reply to a further question, Mr Smith said that as far as his department had been able to ascertain, any effects on the balance of payments of granting further concessions to the United States would be likely to occur gradually over the period 1980 to 1988 during which any tariff reductions concerned would be phased in. It was not possible to quantify how large these effects might be.

Duty-free quotas for paper

Neil Marten (Banbury) asked the Secretary of State for Trade about the latest position on duty-free quotas for paper and carton exports from Norway to the United Kingdom.

Mr Meacher said that the quota for uncoated mechanical printing and writing paper had been increased by 2730 tonnes to 34 705 tonnes and the quota for miscellaneous paper and board by 670 tonnes to 2427 tonnes.

EEC coastguard service

Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea North) asked the Secretary of State for Trade about the proposal for an EEC coastguard service.

Mr Clinton Davis replied that the European parliament had sent forward proposals to the commission for the establishment of a community coastguard service further to the common policy for the conservation and management of fishing resources. The commission had not yet put any proposals to the council of ministers.

Spot checks on tankers

Jo Grimond (Orkney and Zetland) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would introduce spot checks on the ballast of tankers operating from British ports with a view to determining whether oil causing pollution around Orkney and Shetland was due to the discharge of ballast at sea.

Mr Clinton Davis said that this problem was best tackled by spot checks on tankers using Sullum Voe and Flotta including checking oil-record books and the condition of tanks as reported. One of the department's surveyors shortly to be stationed in the Shetlands would carry out such checks. Attention had also been called to the illegality of discharging oily water in this area.

Shetlands: tanker route

Jo Grimond (Orkney and Zetland) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, in view of the fact that he thinks it unwise for tankers to sail between the Ve Skerries and Papa Stour, what steps he was taking to prevent it.

Mr Clinton Davis said that at a meeting with the oil companies and other local interests on 15 March, his officials hoped to reach an agreement whereby tankers en route to and from the oil terminal at Sullom Voe would stay west of the Ve Skerries.

Noxious cargo carriers report

Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade when he would be issuing the government's repsonse to the second report from the expenditure committee, session 1978-79, on 'Measures to prevent collisions and strandings of noxious cargo carriers in waters around the United Kingdom', and which of the committee's 32 recommendations had been implemented by the government since the report was published on 12 January.

Mr Clinton Davis replied that this was a valuable and detailed report and he hoped to publish the government's reply by Easter. Of the report's recommendations 14 had been implemented in whole or in part. The remainder were being studied in consultation with the industry.

Ministers

Department of Industry

Secretary of State: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Leslie Huckfield

Department of Trade

Secretary of State: John Smith
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Peachey Property report

Denis Canavan (West Stirlingshire) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what action he intended to take about his department's report on the Peachey Property Corporation Ltd.

Mr Smith said that in the light of the inspectors' report into earlier events in that company, he had concluded that it would be desirable further to strengthen the law on financial transactions between companies and their directors. Appropriate amendments would be tabled to the companies bill.

British flag register

Geoffrey Dodsworth (South West Hertfordshire) asked how many ships had moved from British flag registration in the last four years.

Mr Clinton Davis answered that, during the period 1975 to 1978 inclusive, 760 vessels were removed from the UK register. After taking into account 314 additions, the net loss was 446.

Heathrow and Stansted

Hugh Jenkins (Wandsworth, Putney) asked whether passengers and air transport was increasing faster or slower at Heathrow compared with Stansted, and at what comparative rates.

Mr Clinton Davis answered that traffic had been increasing relatively faster at Stansted than at Heathrow. Between 1975 and 1978 the annual rate of growth of passenger numbers was 6.9 per cent at Heathrow compared with 10.1 per cent at Stansted; the corresponding figures for air transport movements were 1.9 per cent and 6.8 per cent.

Textile industry

Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, in view of the publication by the EEC commission of the document 'Guidelines for the textile industry', if he would ensure that the multifibre arrangement was strengthened in order to give a further period of time for the industry to restructure itself, and what steps were being taken regarding the instance of a social clause in any bilateral agreement.

Mr Meacher said that the bilateral agreements under the present multifibre arrangement did not expire until the end of 1982. Decisions on arrangements after that date would be taken nearer the time, but in the department's view restrictions on imports of low cost textiles and clothing would continue to be needed in some form through the 1980s. A social clause would either have to be imposed by the EEC, which would require the agreement of other member states, or it would have to be negotiable with the developing countries concerned, but they would be likely to regard it as a disguised form of protectionism and an unjustified interference in their internal affairs.

Japanese investment in Britain

Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was the policy of the government towards the encouragement of Japanese investment in the British consumer electronics industry recommended in the latest report of the consumer electronics sector working party.

Mr Huckfield replied that the government had

worked closely and consistently with both management and union members of the consumer electronics sector working party and the Japanese industry to reach a consensus on the role of Japanese investment in the British consumer electronics industry. Government policy and sector working party recommendations were at one on this matter.

Titanium supplies

Lewis Carter-Jones (Eccles) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would indicate the reasons for the shortage of titanium in the United Kingdom; and if he would give indications of help which his department is giving in overcoming the problems of this important element.

Mr Huckfield said that recent worldwide pressure on supplies of titanium had been caused by significant increases in demand for that material for its traditional aerospace uses, and continuing steady growth of non-aerospace applications. The government appreciated the importance of securing satisfactory supplies for UK users and was considering with industry what steps should be taken to this end, both in the short and long-term.

Grants for Courtaulds

Joan Maynard (Sheffield, Brightside) asked the Secretary of State for Industry why Courtaulds had received government grants of about £90 million over the past eight years, and what account he had taken in making such grants of the policy of the company to reduce the number of their United Kingdom employees.

Mr Huckfield said that Courtaulds has been and was eligible to receive grants and other forms of financial assistance, on the same basis as any other company. It had to be able to meet the criteria and conditions for such assistance. The company was entitled to regional development grants on all eligible expenditure on qualifying premises. Selective financial assistance under the Industry Act 1972 was available for viable projects including various types of investment. The employment implications of such projects were always taken into account. Employment in textiles had declined throughout Europe and the developed world. To assist only those companies which had been able to increase their total employment would effectively have excluded the greater part of the UK industry from assistance. By the use of financial assistance in the textiles industry the department had certainly been able to preserve more jobs than would otherwise have been the case.

Tuesday, 13 March

Hampshire airport

Rear-Admiral Morgan-Giles (Winchester) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what consideration he had given to establishing a new civil airport in Hampshire.

Mr Clinton Davis said that the study group on south-east airports, which had been established to consider the longer-term airport options for the south-east, was examining the areas where a major civil airport could be developed. Its conclusions had not yet been submitted to ministers.

Wholesale yarn prices

Michael Latham (Melton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what had been the price trends within the last eight months of cotton and nylon yarn, and to what factors he attributed recent increases.

Mr Meacher said the wholesale price indices for cotton yarn and nylon yarn had risen by about 8½ and 6 per cent respectively between June 1978 and February 1979. The increases were mainly caused by higher prices for raw materials.

Knitwear protection

Michael Latham (Melton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how the government was seeking to protect the interests of the United Kingdom knitwear industry prior to the admission to the EEC of low-cost Mediterranean countries.

Mr Meacher replied that knitted products were included in the bilateral agreements under the multifibre arrangement and, where appropriate, in the voluntary arrangements with the Mediterranean suppliers. It was intended that the accession treaties for the states that had applied to join the community should include a safeguard clause which would enable action to be taken against distruptive imports during the transitional period.

Hosiery and knitwear protection

Michael Latham (Melton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade about the operation of the multifibre agreement so far as it affected the hosiery and knitwear trade, what steps were taken to prevent evasion of quotas or bunching of imports at one time of the year, and what action he was taking, in conjunction with the EEC, to improve monitoring.

Mr Meacher said that quotas were enforced through the EEC import licensing system and rules of origin, and low-cost producers had undertaken to space their exports to the community as evenly as possible in order to avoid bunching. He had no plans for any change in the UK's monitoring procedures.

Stocking and socks quota

Michael Latham (Melton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade to give the import quota for knitted stockings and socks in 1977 and the outturn and equivalent figures for 1978. He asked what steps were being taken to improve monitoring by his department and by the EEC.

Mr Meacher said he was satisfied that the quotas for knitted stockings and socks were adequately monitored under the present licensing arrangements. The following is the information on quota levels and outturn.

Country of origin	Quota	Licences issued [4]
1977		
Romania [1]	525 000 pairs	143 880
Czechoslovakia [2]	£92 700	£4 030
German Democratic Republic [1]	£15 450	£15 000
Hungary [2]	£87 550	£87 550
Poland [2]	£103 000	£103 000
1978		
Korea [1]	6 060 000 pairs	5 957 000 pairs
Hong Kong [1]	673 000 pairs	584 000 pairs
Romania [1]	551 000 pairs	384 000 pairs
Romania [3]	25 000 pairs	Nil
Yugoslavia [1]	59 000 pairs	Nil
Taiwan [1]	3 470 000 pairs	3 470 000 pairs
German Democratic Republic [1]	61 600 pairs	Nil
Hungary [2]	£87 550	£6 618
Poland [2]	£103 000	Nil
Czechoslovakia [2]	£92 700	£3 641

[1] Stockings, under stockings, socks, ankle-socks, sockettes and the like, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberized: other than women's stockings of synthetic textile fibres. [2] As note 1 but including women's stockings of synthetic textile fibre and with the addition of woven socks. [3] Women's stockings of synthetic textile fibres. [4] 1978 figures are for licences issued up to 8 March 1979. Further licenses may be issued within the quota limits for goods arriving before 31 March 1979 which were shipped before 1 January 1979.

Worsted yarn

Joan Maynard (Sheffield Brightside) asked the Secretary of State for Trade why the multifibre arrangement has not protected the worsted yarn part of the textile industry.

Mr Meacher said that there were restraints on exports to the UK of five low-cost suppliers of worsted yarn. However, over 60 per cent of UK imports of worsted yarn in 1978 came from the EEC and other developed countries, and therefore effectively fell outside the scope of the multifibre arrangement.

Footwear industry scheme

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked the Secretary of State for Industry for the number of offers made, and the number of offers accepted, and their value, under the footwear industry scheme, for firms to engage consultants to review their operations.

Mr Huckfield said that as at the end of February 1979, 36 offers valued at £112,000 had been made under the consultancy provisions of the footwear scheme. Of these 23 offers, valued at £58,000, had been accepted.

Thorne Group

Bob Cryer (Keighley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if the provision of job opportunities in the Bradford area by the Thorne Group would be regarded as one of the merits taken into account in any application for financial assistance to the Thorne Group.

Mr Huckfield replied that regional employment considerations were of particular relevance to applications for assistance under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972. But the basic consideration remained the viability of the project and of the applicant company. There were various schemes and categories of assistance under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 and other legislation under which Thorne could apply and each of these has its own criteria which determined whether or not assistance was given.

Chemical industry research

Renée Short (Wolverhampton North East) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he was satisfied with the current level of research and development undertaken by all sectors of the British chemical industry.

Mr Huckfield said the most recent statistics on scientific research and development expenditure in British industry came from his department's survey for 1975. A survey for 1978 was being conducted this year.

The 1975 survey showed that the amount spent on industrial R&D in 1975 was £1,352 million, an increase of 121 per cent on 1967, £611 million. Within this total, expenditure by the chemicals, petroleum and allied industries increased by 185 per cent from £88 million in 1967 to £251 million in 1975. The growth for this group of industries was faster then for any other group.

It was encouraging that the chemicals, petroleum and allied products industries had maintained their level of R&D activity relatively better than other areas of industry. Nevertheless the government wished to encourage increased levels of R&D in industry; public funds were available through the Department of Industry's chemicals and minerals requirements board which also covered associated process plant manufacture.

Wednesday, 14 March

Live animal exports

Sir David Renton (Huntingdonshire) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how many live cattle, horses and sheep, respectively, were exported in 1978 for human consumption.

Mr Meacher said live animals exported specifically for human consumption were not separately distinguished in the Overseas Trade Statistics. Following is the available information:

	Numbers
Live cattle not for breeding or dairy purposes	
Fat steers, heifers and yearling bulls	48 474
Other cattle not for breeding or dairy purposes	454 790
Live sheep not for breeding	
Lambs (up to a year old)	174 027
Other sheep not for breeding	407 176
Live horses	
Horses for slaughter	712

Source: *UK Overseas Trade Statistics*, ex SITC(R2) items 001.19 and 001.21 and sub-group 001.5.

Export of hides

Bruce George (Walsall South) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what representations he had received from workers in the leather industry on the export of hides.

Mr Meacher said he saw a delegation of representatives of both sides of the leather industry, on 7 March. He was pursuing the points raised, and would maintain close contact with the industry.

BA's financial target

George Rodgers (Chorley) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he had determined a new financial target for British Airways to run from 1 April.

Mr Smith said he had. In accordance with section 13 of the British Airways Act 1977 he had decided that a reasonable financial duty for British Airways would be to achieve on average a rate of return of 6 per cent a year before interest but after supplementary depreciation on mean net assets revalued at current cost over the three financial years 1979-80 to 1981-82.

This target was set in accordance with the principles given in Cmnd. 7131. It was designed to be consistent with British Airways earning a rate of return of at least 5 per cent in real terms on new investment. It also took into account British Airways' aim to maintain its share of the international airline market. It implied increases in the productivity both of aircraft and of employees.

Petrol price displays

Roy Hughes (Newport) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would take steps to ensure that all garages prominently displayed the price of petrol on sale in the forecourt of their premises.

Mr Maclennan said petrol prices already had to be displayed by all garages on or near the pumps in such a way that they could easily be read by the motorist from the place where he stopped his car to fill up. Garages which chose to display price infor-

mation in addition to the compulsory display had to comply with detailed regulations on the form and use of such displays. He did not believe additional regulation of the display of petrol prices was required.

Microprocessor awareness seminars

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked the Secretary of State for Industry how many seminars and how many training courses had received government financial support under the microprocessor application project, what had been the total amount of money spent on seminars and training courses, and what were the number of people who had attended these seminars and courses so far.

Mr Huckfield said that while his department had already participated in and encouraged a number of microelectronics awareness seminars covering around 1000 people, the special workshop programme to be funded under the microprocessor application project had not yet been launched. Preparations were urgently under way. On training, the department had committed £929,000 and had already more than doubled the number of places available for engineers.

Extension of development area status

Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he had any plans to extend development area status in Yorkshire.

Mr Huckfield said there were no plans to designate any further parts of Yorkshire as development areas. The secretary of state would examine any applications submitted on behalf of individual localities.

Regional preferential expenditure

Bob Cryer (Keighley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was the estimated breakdown of regional preferential expenditure, by region, for all the assisted areas in England, Scotland and Wales, giving total expenditure and expenditure per head of population for 1972-73, 1973-74, 1974-75, 1975-76, 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79 to the most recent practicable date.

Mr Huckfield said that the figures for regional preferential expenditure on assistance to industry in the current financial year were not yet readily available in the form requested. He gave information for the years 1972-73 to 1977-78 as follows:

EXPENDITURE ON REGIONAL PREFERENTIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY IN ASSISTED AREAS

Region	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Northern:						
Total expenditure	£66 m	£92 m	£122 m	£185 m	£237 m	£156 m
Per head of population	£19.1	£27.3	£36.2	£54.9	£70.3	£47.2
North west						
Total expenditure	£40 m	£53 m	£89 m	£107 m	£103 m	£67 m
Per head of population	£6.1	£8.1	£13.6	£16.3	£15.7	£10.1
South west						
Total expenditure	£5 m	£7 m	£11 m	£11 m	£12 m	£9 m
Per head of population	£5.9	£8.3	£13.0	£13.0	£14.2	£11.3
Yorkshire and Humberside						
Total expenditure	£2 m	£10 m	£16 m	£23 m	£30 m	£31 m
Per head of population	£0.4	£2.3	£3.4	£4.9	£6.5	£6.6
East Midlands						
Total expenditure	£0.3 m	£1.8 m	£3.6 m	£2.5 m	£2.5 m	£2.7 m
Per head of population	£0.4	£2.6	£5.1	£3.6	£3.6	£4.1
West Midlands						
Total expenditure	negligible	£.04 m	£1.2 m	£0.5 m	£0.3 m	negligible
Per head of population	negligible	£10	£30	£12.5	£7.5	negligible
English assisted areas						
Total expenditure [1]	£114.3 m	£164.5 m	£244.1 m	£331.2 m	£388.8 m	£270.1 m
Per head of population	£7.1	£10.2	£15.1	£20.5	£24.1	£14.3
Scotland						
Total expenditure	£85.2 m	£108.6 m	£146.3 m	£228 m	£216 m	£145.5 m
Per head of population	£16.4	£20.9	£28.1	£43.8	£41.5	£28.0
Wales						
Total expenditure	£53.6 m	£65.7 m	£81.5 m	£104 m	£113.8 m	£91.4 m
Per head of population	£19.4	£23.8	£29.5	£37.6	£41.2	£32.6
All assisted areas						
Total expenditure [1]	£254.1 m	£339.7 m	£473.4 m	£669.4 m	£719.9 m	£507.5 m
Per head of population	£10.5	£14.1	£19.6	£27.8	£29.9	£21.1

All figures are gross and include payments to nationalised industries. The major items of expenditure included are regional development grants, selective financial assistance under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972, local employment act assistance, regional employment premium (which was discontinued in January 1977) and investment grant differential (estimated). The population is that of the assisted areas in the region or territory in question. Some of the regions listed have only relatively small areas with assisted areas status and the amount of regional preferential assistance received by firms in those regions is correspondingly low. [1] Includes items which cannot be broken down below the national level.

Shipbuilding for China

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether, during his recent visit to China, he participated in any negotiations for the purchase of merchant ships or warships from British Shipbuilders, and whether any of the £2.5 billion line of credit in dollars he negotiated on behalf of the government was to be used for the supply of such vessels from Great Britain.

Mr Huckfield said during the secretary of state's visit to China, British Shipbuilders made proposals for the supply of various classes of merchant ships to the Chinese authorities. There were also discussions on the modernisation of shipbuilding and port facilities. Any such business would rank for consideration under the credit arrangements discussed.

Thursday, 15 March

National Gas Consumers' Council members

Neil Macfarlane (Sutton and Cheam) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would list the members of the National Gas Consumers' Council, which members were employed full-time in industry or commerce and for which organisations they worked.

Mr Maclennan gave a list of the National Gas Consumers' Council membership, with details where appropriate of those currently employed full-time in industry or commerce.

Chairman, Professor N. McIntosh.

Regional Gas Consumer Council chairmen, Mrs J. Buchan, Dr A. G. Read, Sir Christopher Higgins, Mrs K. E. Lambert, Professor P. B. Fairest, Mrs A. Williams, F. Phillips, J. Hudson, Miss M. Roach, S. King, Cllr Mrs M. R. Grimes

Other members, Mr A. J. Adam; Mr E. Fallon, assistant chief engineer, North-West Electricity Board; Mrs M. Wigley; L. Tivey; Mrs B. Williams; Miss E. Fanshawe; Mrs N. Lambie; K. Morgan, technical officer, Post Office Telecommunications; N. May; Cllr G. J. Woolger; G. F. Smith, technical director, Dunford Hadfields Ltd; R. H. Powell; R. D. Hoskin, general manager, supplies and services group, Co-operative Wholesale Society; Mrs A. Lapping.

Alumina extraction

Renée Short (Wolverhampton North East) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what help he was giving the china clay industry to extract alumina from residue clay workings, and what was his estimate of the percentage of Great Britain's alumina needs this process would supply within the next five years.

Mr Huckfield said no help was being given by his department to the china clay industry to extract alumina from residue clay workings. There were no official estimates of future production from this source.

Public bodies' expenditure

Kenneth Baker (City of Westminister, St. Marylebone) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he would estimate in the case of each quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisation for which he was responsible: a, expenditure in the current year; and b, expenditure on administration, accommodation and general services, defined to include items such as salaries, telephones and postage, rent, rates, heating, travelling, transport, office equipment etc.

Mr Smith said that there was no official definition of the expression quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisation. The information tabled related to relevant public bodies, excluding the nationalised industries, to which he was responsible for making appointments.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING 31 MARCH 1979

	Total	Administration, accommodation and general services
	£	£
Advisory committee for the national film development fund	Expenditure covered by the National Film Finance Corporation (see below)	
Advisory committee on historic wreck sites	4 800 [2]	4 800 [2]
Advisory committee on pilotage	5 000 [1]	5 000
Air travel reserve fund agency	40 000	10 000
British film fund agency	No costs fall on public funds 70 000[3] No costs fall on public funds	
British Tourist Authority	15 300 000	2 500 000
British Overseas Trade Board	[4]	
British Overseas Trade advisory council	Nil	Nil
Cinematograph films council	3 070[1]	[5]
Distribution statistics advisory committee	300[2]	300[2]
English Tourist Board	4 600 000 [6]	1 600 000
Export Guarantees Advisory council	[5]	[5]
Insolvency law review committee	5 250 [1]	5 250
Insurance advisory panel	300	300
Insurance Brokers Registration Council	No costs fall on public funds. Expenditure is the responsibility of the council itself	
Interim action committee on the film industry	400 [1]	[5]
National Film Finance Corporation	185 000	[5]
Overseas project board	[4]	[5]
Policyholders protection board	No costs fall on public funds. Expenditure is the responsibility of the board itself	
Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board	300 950 (receipts of £40 500)	136 750

[1] Information not available on cost of assistance provided to the body in question by civil servants. [2] Includes estimated cost of assistance provided to the body in question by civil servants. [3] Not readily available. [4] The British Overseas Trade Board and the Overseas Projects Board are not separately financed. The costs of the export services provided by the Department of Trade under the aegis of the two boards are borne on the department's votes. [5] Excludes project assistance.

Malta embargo

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he had made representations to Malta, directly and through the EEC, to lift its embargo on imports, from the United Kingdom and adhere to the understanding reached by the EEC with the Mediterranean associates and what action he intended to ask the EEC to take following this embargo.

Mr Meacher said that the UK had told the EEC commission that the government regarded the Maltese embargo as contrary to the EEC-Malta association agreement. The commission had taken this up with the Maltese authorities in the context of the negotiations aimed at reaching a satisfactory voluntary restraint arrangement on Maltese textile exports to the community. He would prefer to await the conclusion of such an agreement, coupled with a

removal of the Maltese embargo, which would be in the best interests of both sides, before commenting on further steps to ensure the agreement was adhered to.

Friday, 16 March

EEC consumer discussions

Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what discussions he was currently engaged in with the EEC commission on matters for which he was responsible, excluding the technical directives listed in Trade and Industry, *16 February; and, in particular, if he will give a detailed breakdown of each topic under discussion with special reference to EEC proposals, actual or envisaged, and their status within the community's legislative machinery.*

Mr Hattersley said his department was currently engaged in discussion with the EEC commission on the following matters, other than draft and adopted directives under article 100 of the treaty of Rome:

Control of concentrations between undertakings
A draft regulation of the council proposed measures for the control of business mergers and acquisitions which would otherwise lead to restriction of effective competition within the community. It is a commission proposal dating from 1973 which is being discussed in a council working group. It is not expected to come before the council for some time.

Patent licensing agreements
A draft commission regulation providing for the exemption of certain patent licensing agreements from notification to the commission under article 85 of the treaty of Rome, has been discussed in the advisory committee on restrictive practices and dominant positions. The draft regulation was published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* 3 March, and the European commission has invited comments on it from interested parties.

Unit pricing directive
A draft directive on consumer protection in the marking and display of the prices of foodstuffs, under article 235 of the treaty of Rome, provides for the introduction of the selling and or the unit price for virtually all foods sold by retail. The draft instrument which is currently being discussed in the council machinery may go to the council within the next few months.

Sale of Prestcold

Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he proposed to give his consent to the sale by British Leyland of Prestcold Holdings Ltd.

Mr Huckfield said that the secretary of state had received no proposals from the NEB to sell off Prestcold Holdings Ltd.

Imports of domestic appliances

Wyn Roberts (Conway) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, whether domestic appliances were at present imported from eastern Europe, or whether it was expected that such appliances would be imported in the future, and, if so, from which countries; what kind of appliances they were; and in what quantities they were imported.

Mr Meacher said that imports of electrical and non-electrical household equipment consigned from eastern European countries in 1978 were as follows:

(Numbers)

	German Democratic Republic	Poland	Czecho-slovakia	Yugo-slavia	USSR	Romania	Hungary	Bulgaria
Refrigerators	10 737	5 050	–	804	15 000	–	7 627	–
Electrothermic appliances (cookers, boiling plates, grillers, roasters, toasters, kettles, coffee and tea makers, etc)	33 500	34	26 048	1	–	–	–	12
Vacuum cleaners and floor polishers	7 800	8 721	800	–	–	7 075	–	–
Electric space heaters (including soil heating apparatus)	–	100	96	–	350	–	–	–
Electric smoothing irons	261 042	33 340	53 916	–	–	–	–	–
Electric hairdressing apparatus (hair-dryers and curlers, etc)	22 834	–	–	–	–	4 848	–	–
Food-grinders, mixers and fruit-juice extractors	99 000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Deep-freezers	3 359	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Automatic clothes-washing machines (not excluding 6 kg in capacity)	–	–	–	7	–	–	–	–
Dish-washers	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Electric water heaters (including immersion heaters)	–	32	–	–	–	–	–	–

Source: UK Overseas Trade Statistics, SITC (Rev 2) items 775.11, 21, 22, 30, 71, 73, 81, 84, and 86.

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Exports to Iran

Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what assessment the government had made of the likely effect of recent events in Iran on sales of British manufactured goods in that country and levels of output and employment in the sectors of British industry most affected.

Mr Huckfield replied that Iran took 2 per cent of UK exports in 1978. The prospects for future exports would depend on the policies of the new Iranian government and the level of activity in the country. It was, however, likely that there would be a marked reduction in exports of military equipment to Iran. The effect on employment would depend on the success achieved in securing alternative markets. The government was keeping in contact with firms about the implications for their activities.

Public bodies

Kenneth Baker (City of Westminster, St Marylebone) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he would estimate, in the case of each quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisation for which he was responsible: a its total expenditure in the current year and b its total expenditure on administration, accommodation and general services, defined to include items such as salaries, telephones and postage, rent, rates, heating, travelling, transport, office equipment etc.

Mr Huckfield replied that the term 'quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisation' is not officially defined. The information in the following table relates to relevant public bodies other than nationalised industries to which the secretary of state makes appointments.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING 31 MARCH 1979

	Total	Total on administration, accommodation and general services
	£	£
Advisory committee on production statistics	240 [2]	240 [2]
Advisory council on calibration and measurement	10 000 [2]	10 000 [2]
Advisory committee for the paper and board industry scheme	130 [1]	130
China Clay Council	Information not available: no costs fall on public funds	
Clothing industry scheme advisory board	130 [1]	130
Co-operative Development Agency	70 000	70 000
Cotton industry war memorial trust	45 600	15 600
	No costs fall on public funds	
Design Council	4 200 000	2 800 000
Design Council Scottish Committee	About half the costs fall on public funds	
English Industrial Estates Corporation	28 600 000 [3]	1 000 000 [4]
Electronic components instrumentation and automation industry support schemes advisory board	70 [1]	70
Furniture Development Council	472 000	12 000
	No costs fall on public funds	
Industrial development advisory board	100 [1]	100
Industrial technologies education and training committee	2 000	2 000
Manufacturing machinery advisory committee	9 000	9 000 [2]
Manufacturing advisory services steering committee	3 000	3 000 [2]
National Electronics Council	36 500	27 500 [2]
National Maritime Institute Board	2 100 [2]	2 100 [2]
National Research Development Corporation	19 600 000	3 200 000
	This body is almost completely self-financing	
Non-ferrous foundry scheme advisory board	400 [2]	400 [2]
Northern industrial development board NW industrial development board SW industrial development board Yorkshire and Humberside industrial development board	2 120 [1]	2 120
Requirements boards Chemicals and minerals Chief scientists Computers systems and electronics Engineering materials Garment and allied industries Mechanical engineering and machine tools Metrology and standards Ship and marine technology Electrical technology	50 000 000 [1]	900 000 [2]
Waste Management Advisory Council	300 [1]	300
	Half of this expenditure is met by the Department of the Environment	
Laboratory of the Government Chemist Requirements Committee	21 [1]	21

[1] Information not available on costs of assistance provided to the body in question by civil servants. [2] Includes estimated cost of assistance provided to the body in question by civil servants. [3] Includes £3.3 million on behalf of the development commission. [4] This and other revenue expenditure deducted from EIEC's revenue receipts, estimated at £7.7 million, the balance of about £5.8 million being remitted to the Department of Industry.

Training engineers to use microprocessors

British industry needs to be shaken out of its complacency about the impact of microprocessors on its products and operations. This is behind developments in the government's awareness programme announced on 15 March by Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry. Missions arranged jointly on a pilot basis by the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress will give employers and trade unionists a first-hand view of major developments overseas. A programme of regional 'workshops' being mounted in the UK by the department will spell out the commercial and industrial implications for decision-makers in 1000 companies. Nearer ground level, the department has committed £1 million under its microprocessor application project to the development of training courses for engineers. The following paper was presented by the department on 19 March to a meeting of those concerned with training and education in industry.

It is essential for the UK economy to adjust to the pace of development of semiconductor technology and the widening range of applications of microelectronic devices. Following an inter-departmental review in the latter part of 1978, the Prime Minister announced to the National Economic Development Council that wide-ranging programmes were underway to assist industry to adapt to the new technology. The main elements of these policies were:

- ☐ an awareness programme among decision-takers in management and the trades unions to help spread new techniques of design and manufacture.
- ☐ supporting feasibility studies for industrial applications of microelectronics in product design and in manufacturing methods.
- ☐ direct support to specific applications of microprocessors in manufacturing industry.
- ☐ increasing support to the microelectronics components industry.
- ☐ mounting major retraining or conversion programmes for design and production engineers and technicians.
- ☐ increasing the long-term supply of critical skills – electronics and systems engineers, systems analysts and programmers.
- ☐ greater emphasis long-term on electronics and computing throughout education.

These programmes are broad-based, involving a wide range of departments and public agencies. They are intended to increase sharply the scale of effort in promoting the industrial application of microprocessors and other microelectronic techniques in the enhancement of existing products, the design of new products, in manufacturing methods, in data processing and in communications.

Training needs

Lack of practical skills within industry is without doubt the most difficult obstacle to the application of the technology. Extra supply of certain critical skills can only be achieved over the medium term; the immediate need is for retraining of existing personnel. Assessments of the scale of need can only be provisional, giving the broad size of the problem.

Many design engineers will need 'conversion courses' to acquire basic skills in handling microelectronics. Without their support, microprocessors simply cannot be introduced wherever necessary into British products. These engineers need to be familiar with the capabilities of the different types of microprocessors and of other microelectronic devices; they will probably need basic programming skills as few will have had effective computer training; they will need to know whether their own design work should be aided by back-up advice and consultancy.

Most design engineers will at present have no experience of electronics, of electronics system design, or of computing, and they cannot be released from their employment for extended periods. Yet it is essential that they should achieve basic competency as rapidly as possible, given the lead-times for the development of new products. This indicates 'crash' courses, probably modular, so that design engineers can choose which elements to pursue and how deep to go into the new techniques.

The numbers involved in design engineering and R&D run into tens of thousands; the figures need further study but there may need to be early retraining opportunities for, say, up to 10 000 engineers. This could mean, say, 3000 to 4000 training places a year. Of these, a moderate proportion would need more than basic skills – they would require thorough training in hardware choices, systems theory and design, and probably knowledge of a high-level computer language.

This type of additional training would have to be spread over a longer-period, and could take the form, say, of several concentrated short courses. Basic training and deeper training would be appropriate to polytechnics or equivalent level educational institutions, but much of the basic training might be provided through private agencies and consultancies that could probably respond very quickly to these major retraining needs.

Production engineers are mostly mechanical engineers, and large numbers would soon need basic electronic skills and an appreciation of systems design. This would be the same as for design engineers, but oriented towards the use of microprocessors to control machinery or industrial processes, and also be the basis for desk systems of production planning and control through short courses at various levels. The numbers involved could be as many as 30 000 in total over a period of years; early retraining of, say, at least 10 000 is indicated again at polytechnic level or by private agencies. A minority will need more thorough retraining spread over a longer period.

Technicians working in support of design and production engineers or as service engineers would often require basic skills in the understanding of electronic and microelectronic circuits and how they should be programmed. Off-the-job training on a modu-

MAP Information Centre

A clearing house for all inquiries about the microprocessor application project has been formed in the Department of Industry. The centre will build up a comprehensive series of technical booklets and also a file of case histories which will assist with requests for information about specific applications. The centre will maintain a calendar of conferences and seminars on microprocessor applications and will supply posters and other material for external use. It will also coordinate inquiries on the MAP consultancy (Mapcon) scheme for low-cost feasibility studies, training, and MAP projects.

Tel. 01-212 3411

Support for industry

A variety of government schemes of financial assistance can help industry take up the challenge presented by microprocessor technology. The full range was published in the 19 January issue of *Trade and Industry*. The following schemes are of more immediate interest.

Microprocessor application project

The microprocessor application project, to which £55 million has been allocated, is designed to encourage UK industry to apply microprocessor technology to a wide range of its products and processes. Assistance, which is open to all sectors of UK manufacturing industry, is available as follows:

1 industrial awareness and training: the Department of Industry will expand and underwrite selected training courses to alert industry to the potential of microprocessors

2 feasibility studies and consultancy support: a refund of up to £2,000 will be made to companies seeking professional advice on the potential for incorporating microprocessors within their manufacturing processes and end product design

3 microprocessor application support: financial assistance is available for projects involving the application of microprocessors in production processes and end products. Project size at least £10,000.

Inquiries: Department of Industry, LA Division, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG, tel. 01-212 0839/6760 for more information.

Microelectronics industry support programme

Purpose: to promote investment in the manufacture of microelectronic components and to encourage research and development of both products and processes.

Scope: the programme will support firms engaged in the manufacture of microelectronic components and also those firms supplying specialised equipment, materials or services to the microelectronics industry. Evidence is required that the project represents an identifiable increment to the applicant's forward development programme and that it would not take place without government support, or would not be undertaken on the projected scale or timing.

Form of assistance

1 Research and development:
- grants of up to 25 per cent
- cost-shared contracts of up to 50 per cent recoverable by a levy where appropriate
- pre-production orders for development of processing equipment for the microelectronics industry

2 Production facilities:
- grants of up to 25 per cent for investment in production plant, equipment and buildings.

Project size: projects should normally involve approved expenditure of at least £10,000 for research or development, or £25,000 for capital investment.

Timing: applications must be made in time for projects to be completed by 31 March 1984.

Inquiries: Department of Industry, Computers, Systems and Electronics Division, Room 211, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG, tel. 01-212 6386.

Product and process development scheme

The product and process development scheme is designed to assist manufacturing industry with development costs incurred in bringing new products and processes from the design stage up to the point of commercial production. Projects from any sector of manufacturing industry are eligible for consideration, though the main thrust of the scheme is towards mechanical and electrical engineering. Assistance normally takes the form of a grant of up to 25 per cent of qualifying costs; alternatively a shared cost contract can be entered into under which the government will provide up to 50 per cent of qualifying costs in return for a levy on commercial sales. Support for pre-production orders is also available under the scheme.

The criteria for assistance under the scheme includes:

1 the company must be viable, have the capability to complete the project or programme and to exploit it successfully

2 the project or programme must be likely to be successful and to contribute towards a significant strengthening of the company's capability

3 the project or programme would not go ahead as proposed within a reasonable time scale without assistance and

4 the qualifying costs of the project or programme must not normally be less than £25,000.

Inquiries: Companies wishing to apply or to seek further advice should approach their sponsoring industry division in the Department of Industry or in other government departments; or the nearest regional office of the Department of Industry; in Scotland, the Scottish Economic Planning Department; in Wales, the Welsh Office Industry Department.

General inquiries may be addressed to the Department of Industry, LA Division, Dean Bradley House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG, tel. 01-212 6898/5536.

Instrumentation and automation industry scheme

Purpose: to encourage additional new investment in modern production facilities.

Scope: the scheme is open to firms engaged in the manufacture of industrial and electronic instruments for analysis; measurement or scientific instruments for research or industrial use; electro-medical equipment; automatic gauging and testing instruments used in manufacturing industry; automation systems. Specifically excluded are projects relating to the manufacturing of items of a domestic consumer nature, such as binoculars, telescopes, watches and clocks, etc; numerically controlled systems, engineers' small gauges and tools, and surgical instruments.

Form of assistance: grants of up to:

1 20 per cent towards the costs of new plant and machinery

2 15 per cent towards the costs of new buildings or modifications to buildings.

Project size: projects should normally involve approved expenditure of at least £50,000 in the case of investment in plant and equipment and £100,000 in the case of investment in buildings or a combined project with both plant and buildings.

Timing: applications must be made by 30 April 1979 and projects must be completed by 31 October 1980.

Inquiries: Department of Industry, LA Division, Room 312, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG, tel. 01-212 0030.

Note: this scheme closes at end-April.

lar basis is again probably the best approach: the eventual numbers might be between 20 000 and 50 000 technicians in engineering activities. Training at polytechnic level, in certain technical colleges or through private agencies would be required.

Many systems analysts and computer programmers, either already in industry or available to work for industry on a consultancy basis, would need to adapt their skills to microelectronics to switch from batch data processing techniques to real-time methods.

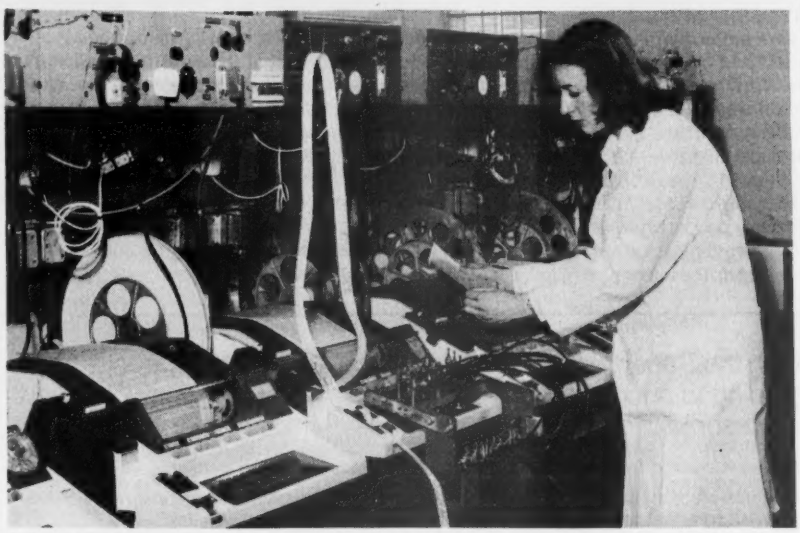
In many cases, sales and marketing staff would also need re-training to a moderate level in the new technology, to keep abreast of their products. Some of these needs would not arise so quickly as new types of product would take time to be developed, but key marketing staff might need more thorough training earlier to assess market opportunities and threats.

The ranges of figures quoted above are indicative and approximate: they depend on assumptions about the spread of awareness among decision-takers in industry and the willingness of industry to commit staff time and other costs to learning the new techniques. There is no way of arriving at a finite figure of training needs over the next two or three years.

Ministers decided in November 1978 that the microprocessor application project (MAP) should be extended not only to cover more feasibility studies and application projects in industry, but also a much broader awareness programme in industry and, as a temporary expedient, promotion of a rapid increase in industrial re-training. The training task would in due course need to be carried forward under the aegis of the statutory training agencies but, in the meanwhile, the needs were industry-wide, and immediate support to training was to be given from funds allocated to the project.

Although there may be a case for some support for training fees, from the industrial training boards, for example, the Department of Industry has taken the view that the prime need is for pump-priming of the development of new courses for engineers or the extension of existing courses. It would be artificial to offer a modicum of fee support if a basic national pattern of training is not underpinned. A further acute problem, however, is that industry cannot afford to have its own scarce skills diverted away into the education sector. The department cannot support the

Microelectronics improves reliability of teleprinters



Teleprinters undergo a 1000-hour reliability test at ITT Business Systems Group Ltd's factory in Brighton. The ITT 2300 teleprinter, ordered by the Post Office, uses microelectronics to reduce the number of mechanical parts and adjustments to one-third of those on a mechanical teleprinter and gives greatly improved reliability.

revenue costs of training and, after new courses have been established, they should be self-financing and should, if possible, use existing teaching staffs, unless the volume of training for industry is sufficient to make it worthwhile for the training institutions to augment training staff.

A final consideration is that the question of increasing the long-term supply of electronics and computing skills often depends on a better take-up of existing places; the department cannot support under MAP the extension of further or higher education but nevertheless hopes to see a beneficial spin-off from industrial training measures to the quality of training for full-time students and the equipment and course material available to them.

Guidelines

The National Computing Centre has been appointed by the department to act as agent in gathering in and examining applications for grants under MAP for industrial training. The intention is to deal with applications as quickly as possible, with recommendations from the NCC on specific cases normally being settled by the department within two weeks. Support is available for all appropriate training organisations to enable them to develop courses for industrial staff in the application of microprocessors. Grants for approved proposals will cover 50 per cent of allowable costs but for courses developed within individual industrial firms, as opposed to public courses, the level of funding will be 25 per cent.

Allowable costs for course development include the development of new course material, including staff time; equipment for the course; design and printing of course material; and initial marketing of the course. Costs incurred in running the courses (eg staff salaries, rent or rates for accommodation) are not eligible for support as it is expected that these should be met out of course fees. The two major criteria used in considering applications are the competence and experience of the training organisation and whether the proposal offers a steady and significant throughput for industry.

For each proposal approved for support, a contractual arrangement is established which allows a reserve right to exploit any equipment or useful course material if the training organisation cannot reach 60 per cent of its stated target for training.

Since these guidelines for supporting the development of courses were settled at the end of 1978, proposals have been actively sought from a variety of training institutions and organisations to try to effect an early increase in industrial training. The pattern that is emerging is that, in spite of the known difficulties of re-allocating resources in the education sector, half-funding by MAP of the development costs of courses is a sufficient base to prompt a rapid expansion of training.

Applications cleared already will lead to an estimated trebling of the volume of UK training for 1979. Perhaps more importantly, courses will be organised on a regular basis, with proper course notes and with good equipment, so that short courses for engineers can be more systematic and intensive. This base of course material and good equipment will also up-date and improve the education of full-time students at the institutions concerned.

Financial support of over £1 million has already been committed under MAP for course development, all of which is going into practical training courses with a good equipment base. Some forty applications have been approved for support of courses in polytechnics and universities, certain technical colleges already giving occasional courses, semi-conductor firms, certain research associations, and private training agencies.

Beyond this, there is full funding by MAP of a series of technician training modules being developed by the Technician Education Council, and it is hoped that these course modules will be available for use throughout the country by autumn 1979. A technical training course for engineers has been commissioned from the Open University, to be available later in 1980 as mass demand for training emerges and to relieve some of the likely pressure on traditional teaching methods at the basic level. Feasibility studies have been commissioned under MAP to examine the possible use of Prestel and Plato techniques for microprocessor training. MAP is also supporting the design of a basic course for real-time systems management, to be made available to a range of educational institutions.

The department is not seeking to establish any particular pattern of training – the pattern should emerge from the individual training proposals, and these proposals should be based on soundings among the industries for which the training will be available. It is probably too early to indicate what the eventual pattern may be but some pointers are:

- ☐ courses need to be short, preferably modular
- ☐ engineers may need to progress through a series of courses, depending on how much of the systems design they will be doing themselves
- ☐ courses may not all be at the same institution; there will need to be specialisation at the higher levels, for particular types of application or semi-conductor devices. Some institutions will only be able to give basic-level courses
- ☐ certain advanced real-time systems require programming at the assembler or machine-code level, so most engineers will benefit from training in high-level languages

Courses

Courses on the application of microprocessors under the Department of Industry's 'awareness' and 'training' programmes will be announced in *Trade and Industry*, as and when details are available.

Possible pattern of courses for engineers

Awareness/appreciation introductory courses on microprocessors in industry for managers and engineers (not funded under MAP)

Overview of systems design techniques, semi-conductor devices etc with some 'hands-on' initial training

Overview of individual devices

Assembler programming of particular devices (ie using development systems)

Advanced systems design using particular devices

Courses for specific areas of application, eg process control, instrumentation, or oriented to particular industries

High-level languages for microprocessors (PL/M, PL/Z, Pascal etc)

Structured software design and development techniques

Project management for advanced real-time microprocessor-based systems

as these emerge, or at least at assembler level, and this requires a good equipment base.

It is likely that while a fairly large number of training agencies will be able to handle basic courses, the more advanced courses will be provided by a limited number of institutions. Two requirements from industry are that courses should be as short as possible, two weeks' long at the outside, as their engineers can seldom be released for longer; and individual firms should be able to specify a variety of staff for training courses so that within each firm it should be possible to build up a 'project team' to start work on initial microprocessor applications.

A number of questions

There are a number of questions still to be examined as the training work proceeds. So far there are encouraging signs that a considerable expansion of training can be achieved within a matter of months, and it is possible that this rate of expansion can be continued through 1979 and the early part of 1980, with mass techniques of basic training, possibly becoming available after that. There are, however, obvious risks that there may be a ceiling on the expansion of training imposed by shortages of key training staff. This could also have an effect on the quality of training. These problems will have to be faced during 1979.

Secondly, there will need to be a feedback from industry about the quality of courses and about any gaps in the system. This links with the need to ensure some continuity between the present interim arrangements for Department of Industry support under MAP via the National Computing Centre, and the longer-term arrangements for ensuring that there is an adequate training base to help industry to cope with the dominant technology for the 1980's.

Glossary

With the Department of Industry's programmes of awareness and training in microelectronics underway, it may be helpful to know what some of the words mean.

Analogue (or linear)
A system in which the output signal bears a continuous relationship to the input signal, as opposed to the discontinuous relationship exhibited by digital circuits.

Binary
A digital system where only two levels of signal are used, such as on/off or high/low.

Bipolar
Semiconductor devices where the gain is obtained by interaction of positive and negative charge carriers.

CCD (charge-coupled device)
A device in which information is stored by means of packets of minute electrical charges.

Chip (or die)
A small piece of silicon on which is a completely unpackaged semiconductor device – a transistor, diode or integrated circuit.

Diffusion
A process by which selected chemicals, called dopants, are enabled to enter the crystalline structure of semiconductor materials to change the electrical characteristics.

Digital
A system that handles information as numbers.

Discrete device
A single-function packaged component; for example, a diode or a transistor.

FET (field effect transistor)
A transistor controlled by voltage rather than current. The flow of current through a channel controlled by the effect of an electric field resulting from the voltage applied to an area called the gate. Only one type of charge carrier is involved.

Hybrid
A small electronic module in which passive elements and interconnections are formed by thin- or thick-film techniques on a substrate to which the active devices (for example, transistors) may be added, usually in chip form.

Integrated circuit
A semiconductor device containing circuit elements which are manufactured in a single piece of material and which are indivisibly connected to perform a function.

LCD display
Display utilising liquid-crystal technology.

LED display
Display utilising light-emitting diodes.

LSI (large-scale integration)
This term is generally applied to integrated circuits containing from 100 to 5000 logic gates or 1000 to 16 000 memory bits.

Linear
See Analogue

Logic
The system in which on/off conditions at the inputs of digital circuits provide related on/off signals at the outputs.

Mask
A photographic plate on which is printed the integrated circuit pattern required for a single step of the silicon wafer fabrication process.

Memory
A device which stores digital information. In semiconductor memories data may be stored in the form of electrical charges or as voltage or current levels.

Microelectronic devices
The generic term for electronic components or circuits made to very small dimensions.

Microprocessor (MPU)
An LSI circuit design that provides, in one or more chips, similar functions to those contained in the central processing unit of a computer. It interprets and executes instructions and usually incorporates arithmetic capabilities.

MOS (metal-oxide-silicon)
See FET.

MSI (medium-scale integration)
A term generally applied to integrated circuits containing from 20 to 100 logic gates or less than 1000 memory bits.

N-channel (see also MOS)
A type of field-effect transistor structure in which the conducting channel is n-type (negative) semiconductor material. N-channel devices operate at higher speed than p-type (positive) devices.

PROM (programmable read-only memory)
A memory into which information can be written after the device is manufactured, but thereafter cannot be altered.

RAM (random access memory)
A memory in which information can be entered or retrieved from any storage position.

ROM (read-only memory)
A memory into which information is written during the manufacturing process and which thereafter cannot be altered.

Semiconductor
A material in which the electrical conductivity lies between that of conductors and insulators. It also has a crystal structure whose atomic bonds allow the conduction of current by either positive or negative carriers when the appropriate dopants are added.

Solid state
The area of physics which deals with materials in their solid form. All silicon semiconductors are solid-state devices.

SSI (small-scale integration)
A term applied to integrated circuits containing from one to twenty logic gates.

Transistor
An active semiconductor device with three electrodes (emitter, base and collector). Used as a switch or as an amplifier.

VLSI (very-large-scale integration)
A term applied to integrated circuits containing from one to 20 logic gates.
than 16 000 memory bits.

Wafer (or slice)
A thin disk of semiconductor material, usually silicon, in which many semiconductor devices are fabricated at one time. The devices are subsequently separated and assembled in individual packages.

Yield
A measure of the efficiency of a production process determined by the ratio of the number of acceptable devices completed to the number of devices started.

New products

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Process plant controller based on microcomputer

An advanced 16-bit microcomputer-based system that combines economy with sophistication has been developed by R.P. Automation Ltd for industrial control and instrumentation. Reypack 99 is claimed by its manufacturers to be suitable for such operations as sensing and controlling load demand and for general use in automated process plant.

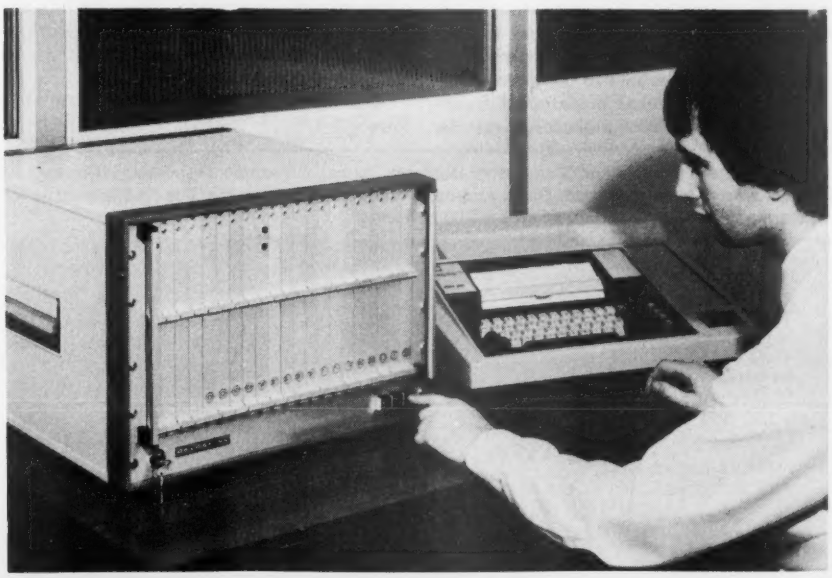
The system comprises a central processing unit and modular hardware offering the flexibility to meet a customer's individual requirements. The central processing board incorporates a microprocessor together with four-phase clock generator driver, parity bit generator/checker, interrupt prioritiser and all gating and buffering for the data, address and control buses.

Modules fit the standard 480 mm rack and all interconnections are at the rear to make for a simple and well screened bus-bar structure. Racks are fitted with a continuous bus in the upper half of the frame to interconnect modules to the central processor. Memory and external-operations printed-circuit cards are linked to the processor by an additional bus in the lower half of the frame.

Apart from the standard random access and read-only memories modules include a supervisory control that responds to both hardware and software commands. Four-channel analogue inputs and outputs as well as 16-channel digital inputs and outputs are available. These, together with a bus expander board, input/output bus driver, serial link and stepper motor drive permit virtually any automatic plant control system to be tailored to a client's individual needs.

Further information: circle 361

Analogue and digital inputs and outputs are available.



Automatic profile stitcher is fast and accurate

High-speed precision repetitive sewing of small items in the clothing, shoe, leather, fancy goods or similar industries, can now be done automatically with as many multi-backtacks as required, using a fully automatic profile sewing machine developed by Trubenised (Sales) Ltd.

Known as the Trumatic 1400S, this machine can have backtacks included in any part of its automatic sewing cycle. There is a particular benefit where a number of items are included in one workholder, when the stitching on each item can now begin and end with a backtack to give added strength or finish to the appearance of the product. The machine has a sewing area of 635 mm by 254 mm allowing a large number of small items to be loaded on to the machine at once and accommodated in one sewing cycle.

Continuity of production with minimal training costs is assured as even unskilled operators require only an hour or two of experience on the machine. A number of features which are standard to this machine contribute to high productivity. They include a fully automatic sewing cycle, left-right-left working, dialled stitch length and sewing speed and easy to change styling.

Accuracy, reliability and low maintenance all follow from the use of hydraulic movement of the workholder relative to the Pfaff 483-900 sewing head. This movement of the work holder is controlled by an hydraulic servo valve operated by a magnetic joystick which follows a simple sheet metal profile in the same shape as the design to be sewn. Profiles are easily cut in the workshop and can be changed by the operator of the machine in under two minutes.

Further information: circle 362

A second identical set of shoe tabs being unloaded from the work holder.

Autosampler control fitted to spectrophotometer

A modular atomic absorption spectrophotometer, Pye Unicam Ltd's SP9, can be built up from a simple teaching instrument to a complete flame or flameless system with video furnace programmer. Complete microprocessor control of the furnace is provided by the programmer which is the first unit of its kind to incorporate autosampler controls, say its manufacturers.

Up to 10 programs can be stored, each comprising six phases of up to 3000°C all with linear or non-linear temperature ramp, gas stop and temperature or voltage control. The autosampler can accommodate nearly 40 samples on interchangeable turntables and can be switched to inject volumes between five and 40 microlitres.

A computer module can store up to nine operating programs. It can accept up to five standards of any concentration in fixed or variable ratios from which a calibration curve is calculated. Precision calculations are possible on an operator-selectable number of samples, using either peak-height or peak area measurements.

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European community news

Callaghan stresses improved allocation of resources

EEC heads of government have recognised that the existence of agricultural surpluses and the costs involved cannot be justified.

This had been evident at the 12 to 13 March European council held in Paris, Prime Minister James Callaghan told the House of Commons on 14 March – a fact he welcomed.

The council had agreed in a statement issued at the end of the summit that these market imbalances required 'a prices policy appropriate to this situation'. This meant, Mr Callaghan said, that the UK could not agree to common price increases for products in surplus production at future agriculture councils.

To reinforce this point, the Prime Minister said he had told the summit that there was room for considerable improvement in the way resources were allocated. This was especially important, as expenditure would reach the limits of resources available to the community within the next few years. There was therefore clearly a need, he said, for speedy action to reduce wasteful and unnecessary expenditure on accumulating food surpluses through agricultural aid, which then had to be disposed of at considerable loss.

Mr Callaghan said he had urged the other EEC leaders instead to devote more attention and resources to the acute problems which had shown themselves in parts of European industry and in the social decline of the centres of some European cities.

On unemployment and social policy, the council's view had been that quite apart from the beneficial effects which would result from faster economic growth, specific measures were also needed to reduce unemployment. Ministers of labour and social affairs had been asked to work closely with trade unions and employers in further co-ordinated action in such matters as youth employment and training schemes, limitation of overtime, vocational training for women, social measures to assist workers in industries in difficulty such as iron and steel, earlier retirement and work-sharing. They had been asked to report on these matters to the next council meeting.

Another point of agreement had been on energy supplies and use the Prime Minister told the house. The council had adopted the objective of a reduction in 1979 community oil consumption of about 25 million tonnes, about 5 per cent below present forecasts, by such methods as encouraging conservation, making the best use of hydro-carbon and coal reserves and strengthening production of electricity from nuclear sources whenever conditions would permit.

Because of a report presented by the European commission, Mr Callaghan said he had asked that finance ministers should examine the proposition that economic convergence between member states would be strengthened if their net contributions to the budget were more closely related to some objective criteria. In this connection heads of government had asked ministers of finance to examine in depth how all the policies of the community taken as a whole could be developed to make a greater contribution to achieving economic convergence and to make a report to the next council.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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Commission adopts health directive

A proposed directive aimed at protecting workers from the risks of harmful exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work has been adopted by the European commission.

This directive would make it obligatory for member states to implement technical preventive measures; to establish maximum values for human biological indicators; to set up individual protective and hygienic measures; to inform workers of potential risks and warning signals; and to provide medical supervision.

There is also provision in the directive for implementing additional measures which concern medical supervision and access to results when agents such as asbestos, cadmium and lead are involved.

This outline directive is part of the community's action programme regarding safety and health at the place of work, adopted by the council on 29 June 1978. One of the general aims was to limit exposure to occupational risks to the lowest possible levels for all community workers. This programme includes a number of priority actions which had to be undertaken between now and 1982 and among which were the establishment of exposure limits for certain poisonous substances such as asbestos, arsenic, cadmium, lead and chlorinated solvents, maximum values for human biological indicators, sampling and measuring methods, as well as satisfactory work hygiene conditions.

The directive has been submitted to the council.

EEC heads of government who attended the Paris summit: left to right: Anker Joergensen, Denmark; James Callaghan, UK; Gaston Thorn, Luxembourg; Jack Lynch, Republic of Ireland; Valery Giscard d'Estaing, France; Giulio Andreotti, Italy; Andreas Van Agt, The Netherlands; Paul Vanden Boeynants, Belgium; Helmut Schmidt, Germany; Roy Jenkins, president EEC commission.

UK energy policy discussions with commission outlined

Energy secretary Tony Benn has been discussing seven aspects of UK energy policy with the European commission. Below is a summary of a note sent by Mr Benn to Frank Chapple, chairman of the Trades Union Congress's fuel and power industries committee, on 14 March detailing the discussions.

British Gas Corporation's access to natural gas supplies. The commission raised the question of BGC's role in natural gas purchasing. The energy secretary was told in July 1978 by two commissioners that the commission was looking at the question, but, apart from inquiring informally to establish that they knew and correctly understood the relevant legislative provisions, they have not yet pursued the question.

BGC does not have a monopoly of access to natural gas, licensees being free to re-export it once landed, and free to use the gas themselves for industrial non-fuel purposes or, with the secretary of state's consent, to sell it for such purposes to another company. The Department of Energy sees no reason to doubt that BGC's position is compatible with the treaty of Rome. Any change in present practice enforced on the UK by the EEC would affect a vital national interest.

Refinery policy. The commission variously proposed to the council of ministers during 1977 and 1978 that there should be a standstill on building new distillation capacity; encouragement to withdraw some capacity from service; and indicative guidelines for the maximum desirable level of increase in operational throughput. However, the council were not able to agree to such propositions at the energy council on 30 May 1978. The commission has referred to them since. The commission continues to make reports to the council on the refinery situation which the council is keeping under review.

Full and fair opportunity policy. The commission has sought clarification of the 'full and fair opportunity' policy. The government has explained that the policy is designed to make UK operators fully aware of the capacity of the UK's offshore supplies industry and to give it a fair chance to compete for business. There is no preference for UK suppliers, and the memorandum of understanding governing the code of practice which has been agreed with the UK offshore operators association makes clear that the policy is applied in a manner consistent with the UK's EEC obligations. Discussions with the commission are continuing.

Landing requirement. All petroleum production licences for the UK continental shelf contain a provision that petroleum won and saved from the licensed area, other than that used at the field, shall be delivered on shore in the UK unless the secretary of state gives notice of his consent to delivery elsewhere. The commission has questioned whether this requirement is compatible with the treaty of Rome which requires that there should be free movement of goods in intra-community trade. The government has pointed out that it sees no reason to doubt the compatibility of the requirement with the treaty. Discussions are continuing with the commission to see whether the UK can convince them on this point, particularly on the waivers of the landing requirement given and on the appreciable exports of oil taking place.

Central management and control. The commission has questioned the provision in UK petroleum licences which enables the secretary of state to revoke a licence if a licencee ceases to have its central management and control in the UK. A licencee is not required to be incorporated in the UK, but the licence condition effectively requires staff in the company's UK office to have sufficient authority to take responsible, and, where necessary, immediate decisions on operational matters – for example in emergencies – and to act as a base for the UK taxation and exchange control. The UK has explained to the commission the reasons for this requirement, which contains no discriminatory conditions linked to nationality of the licensee.

Offshore supplies interest relief grant scheme. The interest relief grant scheme provides grants of 3 per cent a year for up to eight years on loans raised from authorised banks to finance up to 80 per cent of the UK content of contracts placed with UK firms for goods and services used in the construction and installation of oil and gas production facilities on the UK continental shelf. The commission has expressed its concern that the scheme may give UK suppliers an unfair advantage in intra-community trade. The government has replied that it considers an effective scheme necessary to counter subsidised competition from suppliers in other countries. It does not believe that the scheme causes distortions in intra-community trade and is continuing to discuss the matter with the commission.

Euratom and nuclear policy. The commission, reinforced by a recent court decision, has been having discussions with member states on a proposal to activate some dormant provisions of the Euratom treaty concerned with the supply of nuclear material, which would give it effective control over certain key aspects of nuclear policy. The government believes this must remain with national governments.

Another part of the treaty, which has also remained dormant, gives the community ownership of all special fissile material in the civil field, although member states retain unlimited rights of consumption and use over it – but not the right to sell it outside the community without the permission of the commission.

Foreign ministers agree negotiating positions

Foreign ministers at the 5 to 6 March council agreed to aim for 3 April as completion date for the Greek accession negotiations.

They made progress also in determining the community's position on a number of outstanding questions for the final ministerial level meeting with the Greeks, scheduled for that date.

The council had examined at length the present state of talks to find a successor to the Lomé convention, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Frank Judd told the House of Commons on 12 March. They resolved a number of positions which the community adopted for the next stage in the negotiations – the ministerial level meeting with the African, Caribbean and Pacific states held in the Bahamas on 22 and 23 March.

The council had discussed in broad terms the commission's proposals for a community response to Turkish requests for improvements in Turkey's association arrangements with the EEC. A number of questions were remitted for further study. The need to give Turkey a helpful response had been generally recognised, the minister said.

The commission had reported to the council on the shape of the emerging package in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade multilateral trade negotiations. A number of improvements had been suggested by member states and the commission had been invited to make a further report to the council on 3 April.

Ministers had agreed on general guidelines for the community position at the common fund negotiating conference which resumed in Geneva on 12 March. The council attached importance to agreement being reached on the main elements of the fund during the forthcoming negotiations, Mr Judd said.

The council had also agreed that the fifth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad V), due to take place in Manila in May, would constitute a politically important stage in the progress of the north-south dialogue and that the community had to play a positive and constructive role at the conference.

The UK had pointed out that the commission's revised proposals on aids to the steel industry still presented legal difficulties. These would be discussed with the commission and the subject was expected to be put to the council again on 3 April.

The council had received a report from the commission on the opening round of negotiations with the Romanians on arrangements covering trade in industrial products and the establishment of a mixed commission. The negotiations would be continued in due course.

There had been resumed discussion of a mandate for the commission to negotiate a safeguard agreement between Euratom and Australia. The council had agreed to continue its discussions at its next meeting in April.

Tachographs will cost £100m

Tachographs will have a capital cost of around £100 million, with recurring annual costs of about £40 million for maintenance and recalibration. This was the best estimate there was transport secretary William Rodgers told the House of Commons on 13 March.

The latter figure represented the addition of about 0.6 per cent to present operating costs, which would fall on vehicle operators. The figures made no allowance for any offsetting productivity savings.

UK national conference of the centre for European education

More than 50 organisations in the UK, including representatives of local authorities, teachers, and national and regional bodies, have agreed to act as a national conference of the centre for European education (CEE) in the UK.

The purpose of the conference is to support those concerned with the European dimension in schools, further education and teacher training. It will provide an information service and advise on courses, conferences, projects and other developments. It will try to help member organisations with sponsorship, speakers and other contacts, and will provide a forum for the support of curriculum and syllabus development through its member organisations.

There are national committees of the CEE in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden and the UK.

The UK committee was set up in 1976, and its enlargement was discussed at two meetings convened by the Department of Education and

Science during 1978. The bodies who took part decided that a national conference should be set up, to provide the CEE national committee in the UK.

Tugendhat speaks on enlargement implications for farm policy

Enlargement of the EEC to twelve member states will have considerable implications for the common agricultural policy because agriculture plays such an important part in the economies of Greece, Portugal and Spain – the three applicant countries.

This was the theme of a speech given by European budget commissioner Christopher Tugendhat, at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh on 15 March.

The annual fixing of common agricultural prices would be further complicated, both politically and economically, by enlargement, Mr Tugendhat said. Increased differences in

Tugendhat: 'enlargement has considerable implications for CAP'.

standards of living and production costs would make it more difficult to agree what was a reasonable income for farmers. The need to keep down the costs of agricultural price support would have to be reconciled with the increase in numbers employed in agriculture. This would not be easy, he said, because of the possibility of increased surpluses in some products and the problems of modernisation of farming in the three new member states Mr Tugendhat said.

That was why the opportunity to initiate a period of basic and far-reaching improvement in the CAP, made possible by the commissions' proposal for a price-freeze, had to be seized. 'We must get our house in order before enlargement and make sure that we learn from the mistakes of the past. This is essential if the CAP is to survive and to work in the interests of consumers and producers throughout the community'.

Mr Tugendhat stressed that the problems of enlargement could not be side-stepped by providing extended transitional periods after accession and numerous derogations from the implementation of community policies.

'There is a point at which long-term derogations simply become a change in the rules . . . I believe that if we are serious about bringing these three countries into the mainstream of the community we will have to use the financial instruments at our disposal to provide assistance which will enable them to make the necessary changes within a reasonable period', he said.

There were important benefits however. All three applicant states had a high rate of growth, and considerable market potential. The wide international interests of Spain and Portugal in Latin America and Africa would add considerably to community influence in the world Mr Tugendhat felt and Greece had important shipping interests.

Treaties should be rigorously examined says Foot

Britain should establish the utmost rigour in its scrutiny of community treaties – even though treaties of primary importance formed a small minority of those coming before the House of Commons.

Lord President of the Council Michael Foot told the commons on 16 March that the European Communities Act 1972 made some attempt to achieve a solution to the problem of ensuring that community treaties could be given effect in UK law while at the same time ensuring a degree of parliamentary control over the creation of new obligations.

But, Mr Foot said, government did not regard as satisfactory the procedures under which it had to deal with these matters. 'We are dealing with an entirely novel situation in the history of the British parliament and its relationship with outside institutions, at a time when the pressures on our own parliamentary time are very great', he said 'But that is not a reason for neglecting this important question.'

The 1972 act laid down procedures followed in definition of treaties as community treaties, and made provision for the legal consequences which arose from UK accession to the European communities.

The act defined community treaties as those setting up the original communities' treaties, subsequently entered into by the communities, and treaties entered into by the UK which were ancillary to the treaties setting up the communities.

Mr Foot said the 1972 act also defined the consequences which the recognition of a treaty as a community treaty would have in this country. Section 2(1) provided for the direct applicability of the rights, powers, obligations and so on which derived from such treaties. Such enforceable community obligations or rights became part of the law of the UK, and so became directly applicable duties or rights imposed or conferred on all the subjects of the crown. Section 2(2) of the act established powers of subordinate legislation to give effect to community obligations arising out of community treaties. Section 2(3) of the act provided for expenditure to meet community obligations created by community treaties. Various lawmaking powers under existing UK legislation or similar powers of the legislature of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Gibraltar could be exercised to fulfil community obligations under sections 2(5) and 2(6) of the act. In legal proceedings, the treaties were regarded as community law, as provided for in section 3 of the act.

There was some parliamentary control of the executive, Mr Foot said. Section 1(3) of the act provided that no treaty entered into by the UK after 22 January 1972 was to be regarded as a community treaty for the purposes of the act unless it was specified as such in an order in council which had to be approved by affirmative resolution in each House of Parliament. Moreover, where sub-ordinate legislation was required in the UK to give effect to a treaty, such regulations are made under section 2(2), and parliament has an opportunity to consider them.

Mr Foot said he fully accepted what a member of the house had said about the not always adequate provisions made under these arrangements. None the less, there were some parliamentary precautions available which were used.

Mr Foot concluded by saying he would certainly study this whole question afresh.

Symposium on Euro-Japanese trade

Principal speakers at a two-day symposium on Euro-Japanese trade include commission president Roy Jenkins, and a former Japanese minister of international trade and industry.

The symposium to be held in Brussels on 3 and 4 May is being sponsored by the *Financial Times* and the Japanese newspaper *Nikon Keizai Shimbun*.

Other speakers include commission vice-president Wilhelm Haferkamp and development commissioner Claude Cheysson.

The programme will be an examination of European-Japanese relations, future prospects and the opportunities for beneficial co-operation in the fields of trade, finance and politics in 1980s.

Further information from the Financial Times Conference Organisation, Bracken House, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY, tel. 01-236 4382.

Alleged dumping of Spanish iron and steel

Information has been received by the European commission indicating that dumping is being practised or that bounties or subsidies are being granted in respect of imports of sheets and plates of iron or steel other than electrical, not further worked than hot rolled of a thickness of 2 mm or more (CCT subheading 73.13 B1a, Nimexe codes 73.13-17, 19, 21, 23 and 26) originating in Spain.

In conjunction with the member states, the investigation is being carried out by the commission at community level in accordance with recommendation 77/329/ECSC on protection against dumping or the granting of bounties or subsidies by countries which are not members of the ECSC as amended by recommendations 3004/77/ECSC and 158/79/ECSC.

Any information relating to the matter may be sent in writing to the Commission of the European Communities, Directorate-General for External Relations, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels.

Those interested may, by 8 April, make known their views in writing, in particular by replying to the questionnaire addressed to

those known to be concerned and by providing supporting evidence.

Also the commission will hear those directly concerned who so request when making known their views to the commission, provided they can show that they have an interest sufficient to entitle them to express their views more fully.

It would be helpful if copies of all representations to the commission could also be sent to the Department of Trade's Anti-Dumping Unit, Room 348, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Anti-dumping duty on Greek iron and steel

A provisional anti-dumping duty on certain iron or steel coils from Greece has been imposed by the European commission. The full description is

73.08 Iron or steel coils for re-rolling, originating in Greece.

The rate of duty is variable and is designed to bridge the difference between the import price of a consignment and the basic price published by the commission. However, the amount of duty will be reduced to the extent that the importer satisfies Customs and Excise that an import price is lower than the basic price because of the inferior quality of the goods.

The duty will be collected on imports into the European community on or after 15 March 1979.

The duty will not be collected on importation if the importer gives security of the amount of duty to Customs and Excise.

New legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7174/482/408.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations and decisions which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Seeds and plants. The *Official Journal* L52, 2 March 1979, contains the texts of the following decisions:
Decision (EEC) 79/234/EEC amending the annex to fifth council decision 76/538/EEC on the equivalence of field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops.
Decision 79/235/EEC amending the annex to fifth council decision 76/539/EEC on the equivalence of seed produced in third countries.
Decision 79/236/EEC extending for certain third countries the period provided for in article 21(2) of directive 70/457/EEC and in article 32(3) of directive 70/458/EEC.
Decision 79/237/EEC authorising Denmark to permit temporarily the marketing of cereal seed in packaging with traditional marking.
The *Official Journal* C54, 28 February 1979, contains the text of the fifth complete edition of the common catalogue of varieties of vegetable species. Copies of *Official Journal* C54 may be obtained from HMSO, price £6.60 plus postage.

Animal feedingstuffs. Regulation (EEC) 434/79 amending regulation (EEC) 3075/78 laying down detailed rules for the application of the special measures for peas and field beans used in the feeding of animals. (*Official Journal* L53, 3 March 1979).
Regulation (EEC) 449/79 amending articles 11 and 15 of regulation (EEC) 1528/78 laying down detailed rules for the application of the system of aid for dried fodder (*Official Journal* L57, 8 March 1979).

Animal health. Decision 79/238/EEC concerning animal health conditions and veterinary certification for imports of fresh meat from Paraguay (*Official Journal* L53, 3 March 1979).

Processed fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 450/79 amending regulation (EEC) 2104/75 as regards the specific detailed rules for the application of the system of import licences in respect of products processed from fruit and vegetables. (*Official Journal* L57, 8 March 1979).
Regulation (EEC) 451/79 amending article 3 of regulation (EEC) 1627/76 laying down detailed rules for the application of measures for granting production aid for tinned pineapple (*Official Journal* L57, 8 March 1979).

Sugar. Regulation (EEC) 452/79 opening a standing invitation to tender for the purpose of determining premiums for white sugar for feeding to bees (*Official Journal* L57, 8 March 1979).

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 460/79 on direct co-operation between the competent bodies in the member states regarding the downgrading of quality wines produced in specified regions (*Official Journal* L58, 9 March 1979).

Accession of Dominica to the ACP/EEC convention of Lomé

The *Official Journal* L55, 6 March 1979 contains a notice to the effect that, in accordance with article 89 of the ACP/EEC convention of Lomé, Dominica acceded to that convention on 26 February, and accordingly became, as from that date, an 'ACP state' within the meaning of the acts of the community institutions containing that reference.

Harmonisation of legislation

Pesticides. The *Official Journal* L33, 8 February 1979, contains the text of directive 79/117/EEC prohibiting the placing on the market and use of plant protection products containing certain active substances.
Further information: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Pesticides Branch, Great Westminister House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE, tel. 01-216 6220.

Imports from non-member states

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L46, 23 February 1979, contains the texts of the following decisions which authorise the relevant states to refuse entry to the specific goods. The decisions relate to varying periods; full details are set out in the relevant decisions.
Decision 79/211/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to handkerchiefs, falling within heading ex 61.05 of the common customs tariff, originating in the People's Republic of China and in free circulation in the other member states.
Decision 79/212/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply community treatment to blouses and shirt blouses, knitted or crocheted (not elastic or rubberised) or woven, for women, girls and infants, of wool, of cotton or of man-made textile fibres, falling within subheading ex 60.05 AII or ex 61.02 B of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 60.05-22, 23, 24, 25; 61.02-78, 82, 84) (category 7), originating in Yugoslavia and in free circulation in the other member states.
Decision 79/213/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to men's and boys' shirts, woven, of wool, cotton or of man-made textile fibres, falling within heading ex 61.03 of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 61.03-11, 15, 19) (category 8), originating in Hong Kong and in free circulation in the other member states.
Decision 79/214/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to woven fabrics of cotton, other than gauze, terry fabrics, and of synthetic textile fibres, falling within heading ex 55.09 and subheading 56.07 A of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 55.09-03, 04, 05, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 70, 71, 81, 82, 83, 84, 86, 87, 92, 93, 97; 56.07-01, 04, 05, 07, 08, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 36) (categories 2 and 3), originating in Thailand and in free circulation in the other member states.
Decision 79/221/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to woven fabrics of synthetic fibres, discontinuous, unbleached or bleached, falling within subheading ex 56.07 A of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 56.07-01, 04, 05, 07, 08, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 36) (category 3), originating in Romania and in free circulation in the other member states.
Decision 79/224/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply community treatment to drawn or blown glass, falling within heading ex 70.05 of the common customs tariff, originating in the USSR and in free circulation in the other member states.
The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L47, 24 February 1979, contains the texts of the following decisions which authorise the relevant states to refuse entry to the specific goods. The decisions relate to varying periods; full details are set out in the relevant decisions.
Decision 79/228/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to woven fabrics of cotton, other than gauze, terry fabrics, narrow woven fabrics, pile fabrics, chenille fabrics, tulle and other net fabrics, falling within heading 55.09 of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 55.09-01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39, 41, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 76, 77, 78, 81, 82, 83, 84, 86, 87, 92, 93, 97) (category 2), originating in Romania and in free circulation in the other member states.
Decision 79/229/EEC authorising Ireland not to apply community treatment to shirts, T-shirts, light weight fine knit roll, polo or turtle necked jumbers and pullovers, undervests and the like, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised other than babies' garments of cotton, falling within heading ex 60,04 of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 60,04-01, 05, 13, 18, 28, 29, 30, 41, 58) (category 4), originating in the Philippines and in free circulation in the other members states.
Decision 79/230/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply community treatment to bed linen, woven, falling within subheading ex 62.02 B of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 62.02-11, 19) (category 20), originating in Romania and in free circulation in the other member states.
The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L55, 6 March 1979, contains the texts of the following decisions which authorise the relevant states to refuse entry to the specific goods. The decisions relate to varying periods; full details are set out in the relevant decisions.
Decision 79/239/EEC authorising the United Kingdom not to apply community treatment to woven fabrics of synthetic fibres (discontinuous or waste) other than narrow woven fabrics, pile fabrics (including terry fabrics) and chenille fabrics, falling within subheading 56.07 A of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 56.07-01, 04, 05, 07, 08, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 36) (category 3), originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the other member states.
Decision 79/240/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to toys of wood, other (except motors and movement mechanisms for toys and working models used for recreational purposes and parts thereof), falling within subheadings 97.03 A and ex B of the common customs tariff, originating in Hong Kong and in free circulation in the other member states.
Decision 79/244/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to toys of wood, other (except motors and movement mechanisms for toys and working models used for recreational purposes and parts thereof), falling within subheadings 97.03 A and ex B of the common customs tariff, originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the other member states.
Decision 79/247/EEC authorising Ireland to apply protective measures to trade, within the community, in twine, cordage, ropes and cables, plaited or not, falling with heading 59.04 of the common customs tariff, originating in Portugal and in free circulation in the other member states.
The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L57, 8 March 1979, contains the texts of the following decisions which authorise the relevant states to refuse entry to the specific goods. The decisions relate to varying periods; full details are set out in the relevant decisions.
Decision 79/254/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply community treatment to women's, girls' and infants' (other than babies') woven and knitted or crocheted dresses, of wool, of cotton or of man-made textile fibres, falling within subheadings ex 60.05 AII and ex 61.02 B of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 60.05-41, 42, 43, 44; 61.02-48, 52, 53, 54) (category 26), originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the other members states.
Decision 79/256/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to electrical measuring, checking, analyzing or automatically controlling instruments and apparatus, falling within heading 90.28 of the common customs tariff, originating in Japan and in free circulation on the other member states.
Decision 79/257/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to tableware and other articles of a kind commonly used for domestic or toilet purposes, of porcelain and other kinds of pottery, falling within heading 69.11 and subheadings 69.12 C and D of the common customs tariff, originating in the People's Republic of China and in free circulation in the other member states.
Decision 79/258/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to men's and boys' woven suits (including coordinate suits consisting of two or three pieces, which are ordered, packed, consigned and normally sold together), of wool, of cotton or of man-made textile fibres, falling within heading ex 61.01 of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 61.01-51, 54, 57) (category 16), originating in Romania and in free circulation in the other member states.
Decision 79/261/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to toys made of wood or other (except motors and movement mechanisms for toys and working models used for recreational purposes and parts thereof), falling within subheadings 97.03 A and ex B of the common customs tariff, originating in Japan and in free circulation in the other member states.
Decision 79/262/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to women's, girls' and infants' woven overcoats, raincoats and other coats, cloaks and capes, jackets and blazers, other than garments of category 15 A, of wool, of cotton or of man-made textile fibres, falling within subheading ex 61.02 B of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 61.02-31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40) (category 15 B), originating in Yugoslavia and in free circulation in the other member states.
Decision 79/266/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to gloves, mittens and mitts, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised, falling within heading ex 60.02 of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 60.02-40, 50, 60, 70, 80) (categories 10 and 11), originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the other member states.

ECGD addresses

The Export Credits Guarantee Department's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL, tel. 01-606 6699.

Overseas trade news

Enzymes and motorcycle firms among export award winners

Ten firms, whose exports per employee were nearly three times better than manufacturing industry as a whole, were winners and runners-up in the 1979 export awards for smaller manufacturers.

The five winning companies were: Autosystems, manufacturer of electronic selection, control and distribution systems for the poultry industry, from Netherton, Huddersfield; Biozyme Laboratories, manufacturer of enzymes for diagnostic use, from Blaenavon, Gwent; Notsa Engineering Co, manufacturer of electronic measuring systems for three-dimensional inspection and checking of engineering components, from Aston-on-Trent, Derby; Sintacel, manufacturer of furniture and equipment for laboratories, schools, libraries, hospitals, theatres and canteens, from Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire; and Stelmo, manufacturer of steel formwork for the civil engineering industry, system building production plant, on-site concrete production plant, tunnelling equipment and automated production plant for glass-fibre reinforced cement panels, from Ashford, Kent.

Each of the winning companies was presented on 16 March by Lord Limerick with a trophy, an export award certificate and, for a nominated employee, a holiday for two in Kenya.

Runners-up

This year's five runners-up were: Bearings (Non Lube), manufacturer of self-lubricating bearings, from Wetherby, Yorkshire; Clews Competition Machines (Britain) Ltd, manufacturer of motocross and trials motorcycles, from Bolton; Healey Mouldings, manufacturer of thermoset plastic handles and knobs for the cookware industry, from Oldbury, Warley, west Midlands; Kendell Designs, manufacturer of decorative candles and gift toiletries, from London; and Lancy (Effluent Treatment), of Crawley, west Sussex, designer, supplier and installer of effluent treatment plant for the control of toxic emissions into the environment.

These 10 companies were selected from an entry of 72 companies a slight decrease compared with 1978.

The annual export award for smaller manufacturers is the only incentive award backed by the British government specifically for small firms. The award is sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board, the Association of British Chambers of Commerce which administers the competition, British Airways and the *Daily Express*, and supported by the Confederation of British Industries, the Trades Union Congress and the small firms division of the Department of Industry.

The export award for smaller manufacturers 1978–79 was open to any independent manufacturing company or group of companies employing fewer than 200 people and whose export turnover exceeded £50,000 in the year ending 31 March 1977 and £100,000 in the year ending 31 March 1978.

Industrial action hits ECGD's Manchester office

Because of industrial action in the Civil Service, the Manchester office of the Export Credits Guarantee Department is unable to provide its normal services for exporters.

ECGD will be advising policyholders in the north-west and north Wales how they should best ensure that their exports remain covered by the department while industrial action continues. Policyholders will be informed immediately normal service from the Manchester office is resumed.

Import Duties Act 1958: annual report

The nineteenth annual report under the Import Duties Act 1958 gives details of orders made during the period under review to vary import duties and to allow exemptions and reliefs from duties (including drawback of duty on exportation) and details of a regulation concerning origin rules.

It also gives details of the value of goods which benefited from various existing provisions for relief from duty.

The report, required by section 4 of the act, was made by the Department of Trade and laid before parliament on 13 March.

Copies of the report (H of C no 242) published on 14 March 1979, can be obtained from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 (price 75p) or from any government bookshop.

Seminar on Middle-east opportunities . . .

Current and future business opportunity in Saudi Arabia and Egypt is the theme of a two-day conference being organised by Graham and Trotman on 4 and 5 April.

The conference, to be held at the Cafe Royal, London, will be chaired by Lord Selsdon, deputy chairman of the Committee on Middle East Trade.

Speakers will include senior executives from British and United States' firms which have been successful in these markets. Egypt's ambassador to Britain will be speaking on the second day.

Details from Graham and Trotman, Conference Department, Bond Street House, 14 Clifford Street, London W1X 1RD tel. 01-493 6351.

. . . and on how to find freight customers

A seminar on finding international freight customers is being arranged by Trade Research Publications for 11 April at the Tower Hotel London.

This full-day seminar is designed, says the organiser, to provide information on identifying and selecting customers and to show how market research can help the marketing of freighting services. Practical exercises in desk research and market research techniques

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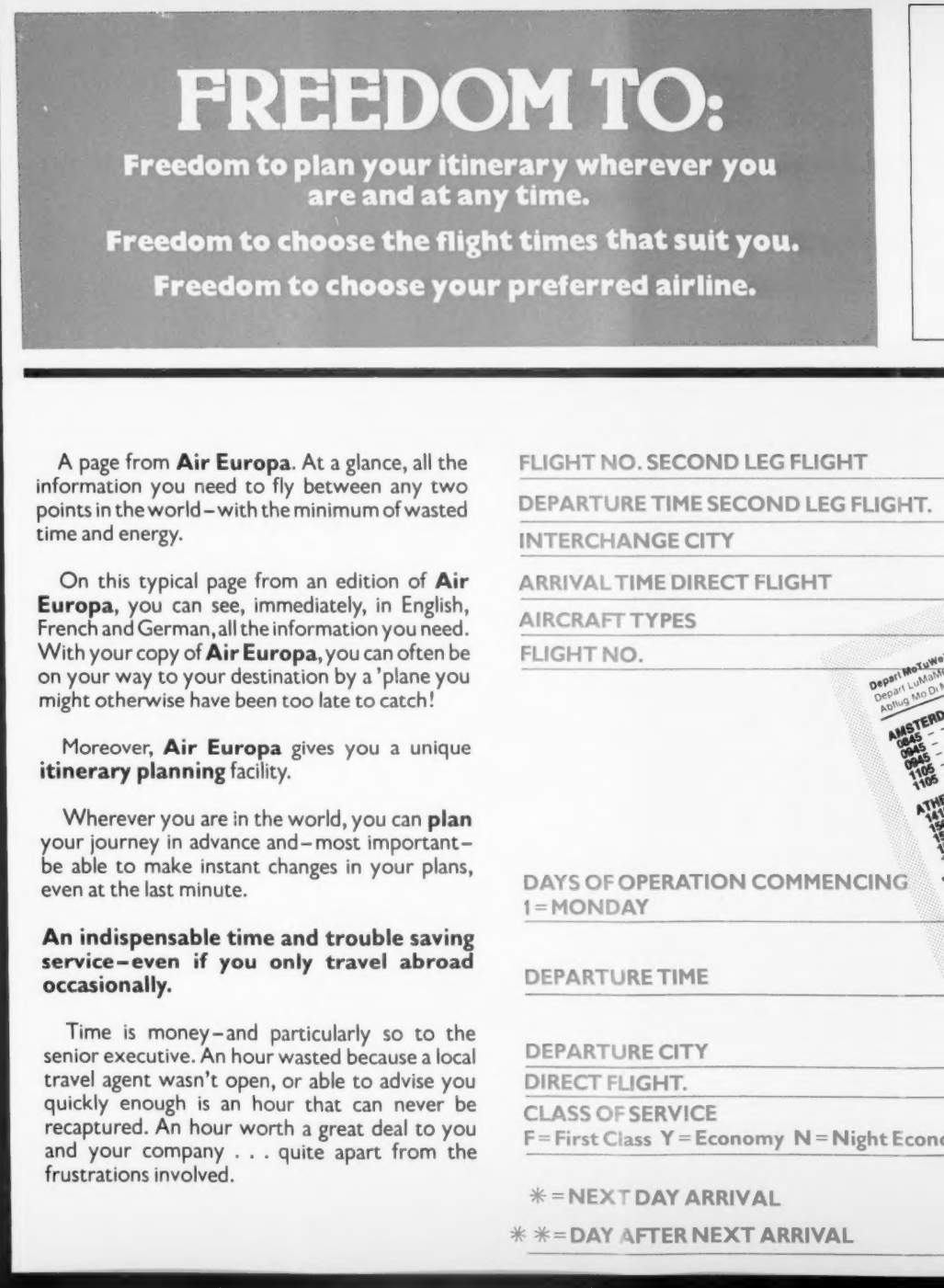

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using published and other information sources are included.

The freight buyer's point of view will also be represented and the seminar concludes with an open forum where member's questions will be discussed and answered.

Further details from Trade Research Publications, 6 Beech Hill Court, Berkhampstead, Herts HB4 2PR, tel. 044-27 3951.

Building mission from YAR

An inward mission from the Yemen Arab Republic will be visiting the UK from next Monday, 26 March.

Staying for a week, the mission will be the guests of the Building Centre Group. The four-man mission, primarily concerned with the construction industry, will be meeting representatives of about 16 UK companies in this field.

British pavilion at Turkish fair

The British Chamber of Commerce, Turkey, is organising a British pavilion at the 1979 Izmir international fair, to be held from 20 August to 10 September.

This will be the forty-eighth fair in the series begun in 1932 and the thirty-first consecutive occasion on which the chamber has organised the British pavilion.

Because of its critical balance of payments problems, Turkey today is not an attractive market for the majority of British exporters. Payments for most categories of imports are up to nearly two years in arrears and cover from the Export Credits Guarantee Department has not been available for new business since October 1977.

On the other hand, project aid from the World Bank and other institutions is available for some capital equipment and some 'hard cash' is from time to time being released for import of priority industrial inputs.

So the fair, which is the only event of its kind on the Turkish calendar, is an opportunity for British manufacturers to keep their name and products before Turkish buyers and public in anticipation of the opportunities that an improved balance of payments position will eventually permit.

Mexican mission reports back

A report back meeting following the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry's recent Mexican mission will be held at the chamber on 11 April at 1600 hours.

The mission, which returned to the UK at the beginning of March, included representatives of civil and mechanical engineering firms, construction and agricultural companies as well as leading financial organisations, such as Kleinwort, Benson, Samuel Montague, Barclays Bank International and National Westminster Bank. In addition to straight trading contracts, some of the companies represented on the mission were seeking joint venture opportunities.

Further details of the report back meeting can be obtained from Jennifer Blay, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB, tel. 01-248 4444.

Applications invited for Bucharest fair

A British pavilion is being organised by the Department of Trade at the third Bucharest international technical exhibition (Technoexpo), to be held from 4 to 13 October provided sufficient interest is shown by industry. The closing date for receipt of applications is 16 April.

The exhibition provides an opportunity to display capital products in Romania in the intervening years between the major biennial international trade fair.

The groups of products that are applicable to this exhibition are: transport; measurement and control apparatus for the woodworking, paper and other industries; wooden containers, cardboard and paper for wooden, paper and cardboard products; plant and equipment for the production of building materials; equipment and apparatus for research laboratories and for production and food and packaging industries; equipment, machines and accessories for forestry, wood processing, furniture industry, door and window-frame manufacture, paper industry, cultivating, harvesting, industrial processing and transporting products of wood, agriculture, food industry, packaging, and transporting agricultural produce and foodstuffs.

Further details and application forms are available from Mr H. M. Giles, Fairs and Promotions Branch, Department of Trade, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7213.

Guide to exporting ventilating and air-conditioning equipment

Information for manufacturers who export ventilating and air-conditioning equipment is provided in a guide published by Technical Help to Exporters (THE), the export advisory service of the British Standards Institution.

'Ventilating and air-conditioning equipment' lists regulations, design codes and approval requirements for commercial and industrial systems and installations in 16 European and middle east countries. It covers such equipment as refrigerators, compressors, fans, control equipment, gas and oil burners, pressure vessels and ducts. Countries included in the survey are Belgium, Denmark, France, West Germany, the Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

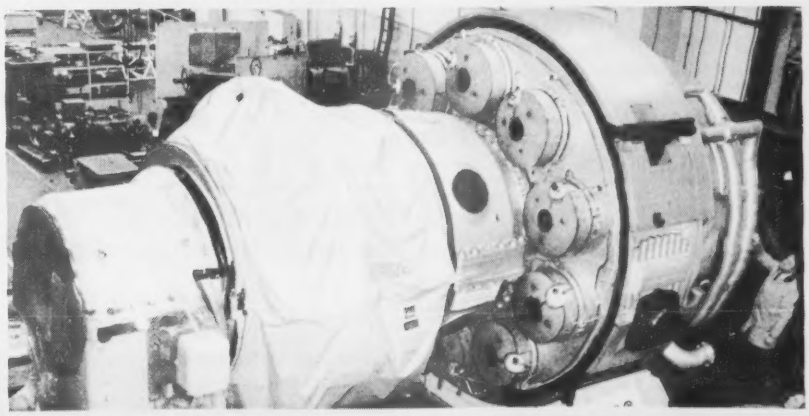
Most countries require some kind of equipment approval, particularly on electrical aspects, and this necessitates examination and acceptance of design, followed by inspection and possibly testing of the completed equipment. Most middle east countries, however, accept designs that conform with British, United States, German, international or other major codes. The survey data sheets therefore name national design codes and acceptable oversea equivalents, approval organisations and UK inspection and testing establishments.

Some countries permit certain UK approval organisations to inspect ventilating and air-conditioning equipment during manufacture and to make the final inspection on their behalf. A list of such organisations is maintained by the official approval body of the country concerned.

In compiling the survey, THE engineers visi-

Gas turbine units for Hong Kong

The first of two packaged industrial gas turbine generating sets, each having an ISO rating of 65 MW and forming part of a contract worth some £8 million, was recently shipped by GEC Gas Turbines of Whetstone for installation by the Kowloon Electric Supply Co at the Hok Un power station in Hong Kong. The second machine, complete with auxiliary equipment, is scheduled for shipment during October of this year. The first machine is scheduled to enter commercial service in the summer of this year, with the second unit following six months later.



ted many of the countries involved and additional valuable information was obtained by means of detailed questionnaires sent to approval organisations and government departments.

Copies of 'Ventilating and air conditioning equipment' may be obtained from the Sales Office, Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, tel. 0442 3111. Price: THE members £20, non-members £26.

ECGD statutory return commitments under the Export Guarantees and Overseas Investment Act 1978

The Export Guarantees and Overseas Investment Act 1978 is the legislation under which the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) operates. The return below lists commitments under that Act as at 31 December 1978.

Export guarantees

New Guarantees given and liabilities incurred in quarter ended 31 December 1978

The aggregate amount of new guarantees given under the Act involving sterling liabilities amounted to £835 million under section 1, £398 million under section 2(1) and the aggregate amount of new liabilities incurred under section 5 of the Act was £3 million a total of £1,236 million.

The aggregate amount of new guarantees involving foreign currency liabilities amounted to: SDR 59 million under section 1 and SDR 237 million under section 2(1); a total of SDR 296 million.

These represent ECGD's maximum liabilities under new guarantees given during the quarter. The continuing liability under guarantees given prior to the quarter is not reflected here, but is covered in the liabilities total below.

Amount recorded against ECGD's statutory limits as at 31 December 1978

Total outstanding sums recorded against the sterling limit of £25,000 million under section 6 of the Act amounted to £19,880 million.

The following items are taken into account:

1 Liabilities in respect of guarantees under section 1 – £12,659 million.
2 Liabilities in respect of guarantees under section 2(1) – £5,315 million.
3 Amount of principal monies due under arrangements made under section 2(2) – Nil.
4 Amount of principal monies outstanding in respect of loans made under section 3(1) – £1,994 million.
5 Sums paid in respect of securities acquired and for the time being held under section 4 – £137 million.
6 Liabilities in respect of arrangements made under section 5 – £73 million.

The aggregate of 1 to 6 above will exceed the total liability to the extent that guarantees to banks have been given under a different section from the related credit insurance guarantees.

Total outstanding sums recorded against the SDR limit of 10 000 million SDR under section 6 amounted, after revaluation, to SDR 3989 million.

The following items are taken into account:

1 Liabilities in respect of guarantees under section 1 – SDR 1613 million.
2 Liabilities in respect of guarantees under section 2(1) – SDR 2376 million.
3 Amount of principal monies due under arrangements made under section 2(2) – Nil.
4 Amount of principal monies outstanding in respect of loans made under section 3(1) – Nil.

Investment insurance

Liabilities assumed in quarter ended 31 December 1978

During the quarter the aggregate amount of new liabilities assumed under section 11 of the Act was £6 million.

Amounts recorded against ECGD's statutory limit as at 31 December 1978

Total outstanding sums recorded against the limit of £250 million under section 11(5) of the Act amounted to £81 million.

Notes

Guarantees are given under section 1 after consultation with the Export Guarantees Advisory Council. Guarantees under section 2 (1) are those given in the national interest.

Section 2(2) enables ECGD to provide financial facilities eg to make loans to match foreign competition on unusual credit terms and to enter into foreign currency loans should the need arise.

Section 3(1) is used to refinance banks which make sterling finance available on special fixed interest rates for exports sold on credit terms of two years or more.

Section 4 enables ECGD to acquire, hold and dispose of securities. This was used to provide aid loans before this function was transferred to the Ministry of Overseas Development.

Section 5 enables ECGD to give cost escalation cover.

Section 11 enables ECGD to insure new UK investment overseas against certain non-commercial risks.

ECGD backs £10m loan to USSR

A £10 million line of credit, which Morgan Grenfell and Co Ltd, acting on its own behalf and for the Bank of Scotland and Moscow Narodny Bank, has made available to Vneshtorgbank, the Soviet bank for foreign trade, is being backed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

The loan will help finance a wide range of UK capital goods and associated services contracts placed in the UK by Soviet buyers. UK suppliers will receive up to 85 per cent of the contract value from the loan; the balance is payable from the buyer's own resources. To qualify under the terms of the loan a contract must have a minimum value of £50,000 and be placed by September 1980.

Exporters requiring further details should contact either Mr C. J. N. Luby of ECGD, tel. 01-606 6699 ext. 7574 or Mr K. E. Thomas of Morgan Grenfell tel. 01-588 4545.

Disclosure of import information

Consideration is being given, under section 3 of the Finance Act 1967, to the disclosure of information on the following goods:

SITC(R2)/Trade description	Code no
693.51	
Gauze, cloth, grill, netting, fencing, reinforcing fabric and similar materials, of iron or steel wire; expanded metal of iron or steel:	
Grill, netting, fencing, reinforcing fabric and similar materials:	
Other:	
Zinc-coated (galvanised)	7327 9100
Plastic-coated	7327 9500
Other	7327 9700

The government is consulting the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, 6-14 Dean Farrar Street, London SW1H 0DX on these proposals and the association will take into account any views received from importers by 23 March 1979.

Inquiries may be addressed to Economics and Statistics Division 5 Branch B2, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5770.

Systematic export documentation workshop

A one-day workshop on systematic export documentation is being held by the Manpower Services Commission, training services division, in conjunction with the Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board and London's World Trade Centre on 2 May.

This, say the organisers, is of great importance to anyone involved in export documentation, in discussing methods of reducing costs and errors and promoting greater efficiency.

The programme will include explanations and discussions on documentations, machine demonstrations and implications of the changeover to aligned documentation.

So that the programme will be of the greatest benefit, numbers will be restricted to 35.

The venue is the London World Trade Centre, East Smithfield, London E1 9AA.

Details can be obtained from Terry Morgan, Manpower Services Commission, 1/2 Cambridge Gate, Regent's Park, London NW1A 4LA, tel. 01-935 7711 ext. 354.

New open general transhipment licence

The text is published below of a new Open General Transhipment Licence (OGTL) granted by the Secretary of State on 19 March and effective on and from 9 April. The OGTL revokes and replaces its predecessor dated 30 April 1965.

An OGTL is an instrument which permits the importation for transhipment in, or transit through, the United Kingdom and re-exportation of goods which may not otherwise be either imported or exported (or both) without a specific licence.

The OGTL takes account of the United Kingdom's international obligations with regard to control on exports of security and strategic goods, the embargoes on exports of arms, military equipment and para-military police equipment to South Africa and trade with Rhodesia, and European communities' quota restrictions on exports of ferrous and certain non-ferrous scrap metals when imported for transhipment/transit from other member states of the communities. It imposes a condition that goods imported into the United Kingdom for transhipment, transit and re-exportation are so entered with HM Customs and Excise and are re-exported within one month of importation.

Copies of the new OGTL may be obtained free of charge on application in writing to Export Licensing Branch, Department of Trade, Sanctuary Buildings, 16-20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB.

TRANSHIPMENT

Open General Transhipment Licence dated 19 March 1979 granted by the Secretary of State.

Coming into operation 9 April 1979

The Secretary of State, in exercise of powers conferred by Articles 2 and 5 of the Import of Goods (Control) Order 1954 [a], as amended [b], and now vested in him [c], and of his powers under Article 3 and 8 of the Export of Goods (Control) Order 1978 [d], hereby:

a revokes the Open General Transhipment Licence dated 30 April 1965 granted by the Board of Trade; and
b grants the following Open General Transhipment Licence.

Interpretation and operation

1. (1) In this licence:
a 'specified country' means a country named, or included in a country named, in Part I or Part II of the Schedule hereto;

[a] S.I. 1954/23. [b] S.I. 1978/806. [c] *See* S.I. 19701537. [d] S.I. 1978/796.

b 'transit or transhipment' in relation to goods means transit through the United Kingdom or transhipment with a view to the re-exportation of goods in question;
c 'entered with Customs' means entered with the proper officer of Cutoms and Excise;
d 'the Order' means the Export of Goods (Control) Order 1978; and
e 'importation' and 'exportation' mean respectively importation into and exportation from the United Kingdom unless the context otherwise requires.

2 This Licence shall come into operation on 9 April 1979.

Importation of goods for transhipment

2 Subject to Articles 3 and 5 hereof the following goods may be imported under the authority of this Licence for transit or transhipment:
a any goods the exportation of which would not be contrary to any prohibtion for the time being in force with respect thereto under or by virtue of the Order;
b any other goods of a description included in Part I of Schedule 1 to the Order;
c any other goods of a description included in Group 1 of Part II of Schedule 1 to the Order;
d any other goods of a description included in Group 2 of Part II of Schedule 1 to the Order; and
e any other goods of a description included in Group 3 of Part II of Schedule 1 to the Order and therein indicated by the letter 'A'.

3. Importation of goods shall only be permitted under Article 2 hereof subject to the following conditions:
a in each case the goods shall, on importation, be entered with Customs for transit or transhipment and shall be exported within one month from the date of importation;
b the goods referred to in paragraph (c) of Article 2 shall be exported only to a destination in a specified country, other than a destination in the Republic of South Africa or in Namibia;
c the goods referred to in paragraph (d) of Article 2 shall be exported only to a destination in a country named, or included in a country named, in Part I of the Schedule hereto;
d the goods referred to in paragraph (e) of Article 2 shall be exported only to a destination in a specified country.

Export of transhipped goods

4. Subject to Article 5 hereof the following goods may be exported under the authority of this Licence in the following cases, if they have previously been imported and they were on importation in the case referred to in paragraph (a) below entered with Customs for transit or transhipment, in the case referred to in paragraph (b) so entered for transit or transhipment to a destination in a specified country, other than a destination in the Republic of South Africa or in Namibia, or in the case referred to in paragraph (c) so entered for transit or transhipment to a country named, or included in a country named, in Part I of the Schedule hereto or in the case referred to in paragraph (d) so entered for transit or transhipment to a specified country:
a any goods of a description included in Part I of Schedule 1 to the Order, other than goods of a description therein indicated by the letter 'T' which have been imported from another member State, and other than goods also falling within a description included in Part II of Schedule 1, may be exported to any destination;
b any goods of a description included in Group 1 of Part II of Schedule 1 to the Order may be exported to any destination in a specified country, other than a desination in the Republic of South Africa or in Namibia;
c any goods of a description included in Group 2 of Part II of Schedule 1 to the Order may be exported to any destination in a country named, or included in a country named, in Part I of the Schedule hereto;
d any other goods of a description included in Part II of Schedule 1 to the Order may be exported to any destination in a specified country.

Exceptions

5. (1) Nothing in this licence shall authorise the importation of any goods which have been exported from Southern Rhodesia other than goods which have only passed through Southern Rhodesia in transit and have not been subject of any transaction there other than a transaction relating solely to their transportation.

(2) Nothing in this Licence shall authorise the exportation:
a of any goods to any destination in Southern Rhodesia; or
b of any goods in relation to the export of which from any country an international import certificate has been issued.

(3) Nothing in this Licence shall affect any prohibition or restriction on the importation or exportation of any goods under or by virtue of any enactment other than section 1 of the Import, Export and Customs Powers (Defence) Act 1939 [a].

[a] 1939 c.69.

SCHEDULE

Specified countries

PART I

Antigua
Australia

Bahamas
Belize
Bermuda
Botswana
British Antarctic Territory
British Indian Ocean Territory
British Virgin Islands
Brunei

Canada
Cayman Islands
Cyprus

Dominica

Falkland Islands and Dependencies (S Georgia and S Sandwich Group)
Fiji

The Gambia
Ghana
Gibraltar
Gilbert Islands
Grenada

Hong Kong

Ireland, Republic of

Jamaica

Kenya

Lesotho

Malaysia
Malta
Mauritius
Montserrat

New Zealand
Nigeria
Norfolk Island
Niue

Pitcairn Islands Group

Ross Dependency

St Helena (with Ascension and Tristan da Cunha)
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Solomon Islands
St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla
St Lucia
St Vincent
Swaziland

Tonga
Turks and Caicos Islands
Tuvalu

United States of America

Western Samoa

PART II

Ashmore and Cartier Islands
Australian Antarctic Territory

Bangladesh
Barbados

Christmas Island
Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Cook Islands
Coral Sea Islands Territory

Guyana

Heard Island and McDonald Islands

India

Malawi

Namibia
Nauru
New Hebrides (Anglo/French Condominium)

Pakistan, Republic of
Papua New Guinea

Sikkim
South Africa, Republic of
Sri Lanka

Tanzania
Tokelau
Trinidad and Tobago

Uganda

Zambia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Licence)

This Licence replaces the Open General Transhipment Licence granted by the Board of Trade on 30 April 1965 and makes the necessary amendments consequent on the making of the Export of Goods (Control) Order (SI 1978/796).

Certain goods may be imported under the authority of this Licence for transit or transhipment subject to the condition that they are entered with the proper officer of Customs and Excise for transit or transhipment to a destination permitted by the Licence and are re-exported within one month from the date of exportation.

Export is permitted by the Licence to certain destinations as follows:
a any goods included in Part I and not in Part II of Schedule I to the Export of Goods (Control) Order 1978 other than ferrous waste and scrap, waste and scrap of aluminium, copper or of lead, and ash and residues containing copper, when imported from another member State of the European Communities to any destination:
b aircraft, arms and other military goods to any destination named in the Schedule to the Licence other than South Africa or Namibia;
c atomic energy minerals, materials and appliances to any destination named in Part I of the Schedule to the Licence;
d any other goods named in Part II of Schedule I to the Export of Goods (Control) Order 1978 (industrial goods of strategic significance) to any destination named in the Schedule to the Licence.

The Licence does not authorise the following:
a importation of goods from Southern Rhodesia other than goods which have only passed through Southern Rhodesia in transit;
b the exportation of any goods to Southern Rhodesia;
c the exportation of any goods in relation which an international import certificate has been issued; or
d the importation or exportation of any goods prohibited or restricted by any enactment other than the Import, Export and Customs Powers (Defence) Act 1939 section 1.

Revised hints to exporters booklets

A revised edition of the booklets on Madagascar and Malta has just been issued.

British exporters can order these booklets by post, accompanied by the appropriate remittance, from the Department of Trade, Publications Sales Unit, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. Copies may also be purchased by personal callers at Export House and at the offices of the Department of Industry at Newcastle upon Tyne, Cockermouth, Manchester, Leeds, Nottingham, Birmingham, Bristol; from the Scottish and Welsh Offices; and from the Department of Commerce Belfast.

New wall map issued to exporters

A new edition of the British Overseas Trade Board's export wall map is now available and is being issued to users of government export services by export offices in London and the regions.

The map shows British diplomatic service posts and British trade correspondents throughout the world.

Copies of the map are freely available to UK exporters from their nearest BOTB regional office or for firms in London and the south-east, from the BOTB Publications Sales Unit, Export House, London EC4M 7HU.

Overseas trade exhibitions

Attendance and business up at Copenhagen's 'Building for billions'

From Steve Seaman, British embassy, Copenhagen

In spite of bad weather, by the close of the 1979 'Building for billions' exhibition in Copenhagen (24 February to 2 March), about 144 000 visitors had been admitted through the Bella Center's turnstiles. Crowds were so big on the final day that the police were forced to close all approach roads.

This year's attendance represents an increase of 9000 on the 1977 figure, the previous highest total. Of these, no fewer than 90 000 were registered as trade, of which some 10 000 were foreign visitors from 42 countries, including groups of experts from as far away as Japan and South Korea.

In all, there were 560 stands showing the products of some 1200 companies.

Organised by the Danish Building Centre, the exhibition continued in its now well-established, high standard of organisation and presentation. It was divided into eight product groups, covering all aspects and stages of building. As in previous years, there was a formidable display of exhibits devoted to alternative forms of energy, with solar collectors of various types being much in evidence. In addition, many exhibits were concerned with energy conservation through insulation and heat recovery systems, in line with the Danish government's current fuel saving campaign.

The addition of a new hall and the full use of all the original halls enabled the organisers to provide, for the first time, a special section for hand tools.

There were national stands from Britain, Norway and Portugal and official stands from the Danish Ministry of Housing and the Export Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, plus the Danish Gasworks Association, represented by a large stand heralding Denmark's coming natural gas programme.

The British joint venture was organised by the Building Materials Export Group in co-operation with the British Overseas Trade Board. Ten companies took part and showed products and services ranging from bathroom fittings to surface preparation machinery and concrete production plant.

The majority expressed themselves well pleased to have come. Although they had taken few firm orders, they had received a large number of serious inquiries from both Scandinavia and elsewhere. Most confirmed that they would return in 1981.

A further 50 British companies participated either on independent stands or with their Danish agents.

Several successes were recorded by exhibitors. Williams and James had brought over a completely equipped Segas emergency and maintenance vehicle incorporating its products and those of other UK manufacturers. This created considerable interest and as a result, orders for more than a dozen hydraulic concrete breakers were received.

Kleeneze Industrial obtained many inquiries plus agency proposals from Norway, Finland and Romania for their brush-type door and window seals. Meanwhile Hillaldam, Coburn's representative, declared it had received more inquiries about its sliding and folding doors than at any previous show other than the Hanover Fair, and once again these had not been limited to Denmark or indeed even Scandinavia.

As in previous years, Errut Products' agent, a veteran participant at this exhibition, was delighted with the volume of inquiries received.

The overall impression gained from exhibitors, both newcomers and those who had shown previously, was one of great satisfaction and the success of the fair generally may be judged by the fact that large areas have already been booked by exhibitors for the 1981 event. All in all, the show fulfilled every expectation and is now without doubt the premier event of its kind in northern Europe.

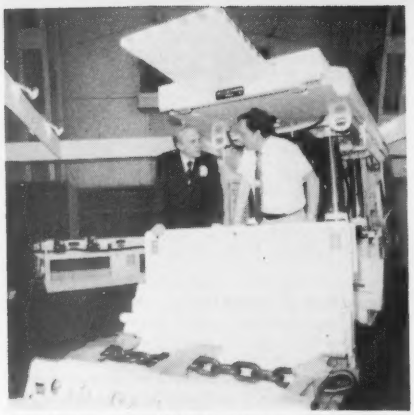
UK digs up down-under mining orders

From G. Dennett, British consulate-general, Sydney

The first international exhibition of mining machinery and equipment closed in Sydney on 17 February after a week when manufacturers from many countries exhibited over 300 million Australian dollars worth of equipment. National exhibitors included official displays by UK, the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and Poland. A two-day technical seminar was also organised during the week.

A joint venture between British Overseas Trade Board and the Association of British Mining Equipment Companies (ABMEC) displayed the products of 15 UK firms. In addition, a considerable number of other UK firms exhibited either on their own separate stands or with their Australian agents.

All UK participants agreed that this was a highly successful venture, well attended by the Australian mining industry. Everyone reported a good level of inquiries and considerable interest. The exhibition enabled UK businessmen to meet with and discuss business with many prospective customers in a short period of time – a task that would otherwise take months in a country as vast as Australia.



Discussions on a UK stand at the Australian mining fair.

A most encouraging individual result was achieved by English Drilling Equipment exhibiting in Australia for the first time; Fred Stallard, managing director, reported tremendous interest in the company's methane drilling machine.

Orders for two machines were received at the exhibition, with firm prospects for further sales in the immediate future.

One clear message the British contingent received is that after a period of slow development a number of Australian coal mining companies is about to embark upon development programmes, particularly into the area of longwall mining. Estimates indicate that up to 20 longwall installations could go ahead within the next 10 years; several new ones are already in the planning stage.

The exhibition was opened by Mr R. V. Garland, Minister for special trade representations. In his opening address, Mr Garland said that business in mining and exploration equipment in Australia would surge into the multimillion dollar bracket as the industry expanded. He therefore saw a growing input of Australian machinery and equipment and this provided great scope for international companies who had blazed the trail and could work with Australian partners.

Several UK firms displaying equipment reported that they had already accepted the challenge of local manufacture and were either setting up joint-venture companies or arranging licensing agreements.

In a country where capital investment in minerals resulted in an estimated 75 per cent increase in expenditure in 1978, with predictions for a further rise of 32 per cent in 1979, it is no wonder UK firms which participated in this event were encouraged by the response of visitors.

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.

Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Eighth Floor, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Overseas trade export services

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Shipping 2000: services for the next century

Leaders of the world's shipping industry – shippers, traders, owners and builders – will be meeting at a two-day conference in London in June, where they will try to assess the pattern that maritime trade is likely to take at the beginning of the next century.

Called 'Shipping 2000', the conference is being held under the auspices of the British Shippers' Council on 19 and 20 June at the London Hilton Hotel. The conference, say the organisers, will cover all aspects of the subject, ranging from the effects of the growing economic and political influence of the developing world on international shipping to the shape of such things as ship design, marine insurance, mercantile finance and port development over the next 20 years. It will also try to identify the trends which will have a profound effect on the future efficiency of service and profitability of the shipping and allied industries.

At the same time, 'Shipping 2000' will have considerable value as a forum in which representatives of commercial interests concerned with shipping can exchange views with one another and with those responsible for implementing both international and national political policies.

Opening address

Papers will be delivered over the two days of the conference. The opening address on the first day will be given by Sir David Orr, chairman of Unilever and on the second day, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources for Saudi Arabia, will give an address on 'Energy: a view of the year 2000'.

Further information: circle 364

Anchor reduces rates to Italy

Anchor Euro Transport of Felixstowe has reduced its groupage rates to Italy by a third following signing of a new exclusive agency agreement. The agreement, which allows Anchor to offer daily departures to Italy, has been signed with Mondial Express Spa of Milan.

This new service also has the advantage that Mondial Express is one of the few organisations able to clear imports into Italy without pre-payment of VAT. The Italian legislation which requires pre-payment often leads to delays in clearing and delivering goods into Italy, Anchor says.

Mondial Express operates its own warehouses in the Milan area. Trailers on the Anchor service from the UK unload at the import warehouse, which has customs clearance facilities on the spot. Groupage traffic is then delivered by Mondial's own extensive domestic distribution network. Full loads and sufficiently large part loads are delivered direct on the trailer.

Anchor operates depots in Birmingham, Bradford, Felixstowe, Glasgow, London and Manchester, and sales offices in Felixstowe and Manchester.

Further information: circle 365

Services to Portugal and Malta

T. and K. Freight services is going south by adding Portugal to its established routes and forging a new UK to Malta link.

For Portugal, regular sailings will be operated to the ports of Lisbon and Oporto with full monitoring of shipments from pick-up to final destination. Handling, customs clearance and delivery in Portugal will be carried out by T. and K.'s local agents, Transcargo Transportes Internacionais of Lisbon.

The service carries the T. and K. group's full commercial back-up including documentation, banking and insurance facilities, plus the benefits provided by a group with a full in-house freighting capability by land, sea and air.

The Malta service, called Freightplan Malta, is a joint venture between T. and K. and Allfreight Ltd, part of an important Maltese trading group in Valleta. The companies will operate a Malta trade route for groupage and full loads.

The primary features of the service, says T. and K., will be highly competitive rates, guaranteed sailings direct from the UK, an early warning advice of shipment, access to in-house packing and storage facilities, the availability of airfreighting for urgent consignments, and the back-up service associated with established freighting companies.

To provide the guaranteed sailings essential to this type of operation, only direct sailings from the UK to Malta will be involved.

Further information: circle 366

Emery goes down-under daily

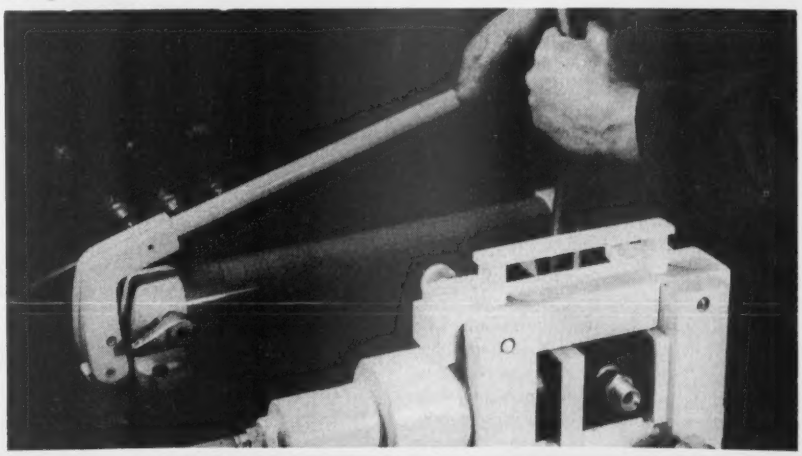
A new daily air freight service from Heathrow to Australia has been introduced by Emery Air Freight. It will move shipments direct to Sydney and Melbourne and it is planned to reduce delivery times by several hours.

To cope with the growing amount of freight arriving in Sydney, Emery has also increased the size of its warehouse at Sydney airport by nearly 60 per cent, from nearly 600 m^2 to almost 1000 m^2 and has added a considerable amount of new handling equipment.

Further information: circle 367

Portable swaging press to be offered in Saudi Arabia

This portable hydraulic swaging press for on-site manufacture of hydraulic hose assemblies is one of the products being taken by Mr D. J. West, export sales manager of TEK Rubber and Plastics, when he visits Saudi Arabia as a member of the Birmingham Engineering and Building Centre trade mission from 30 March to 12 April. The hand- or powered-operated tool is designed to accomodate all types and sizes of hose fittings from 6.350 mm to 31.750 mm bore. Hose couplings can be applied in less than 45 seconds, each with a minimum of die change-over time.



Overseas trade country data

Argentina

Motor industry law. Copies of three decrees issued by the Argentine authorities regulating the import of motor vehicles and vehicle parts have now been received in OTAR.

Under decree 201 the import ban on vehicles classified under certain sub-headings of tariffs 87.02, 87.04 and 87.05 has been lifted and the import duties on these vehicles amended. This decree also sets out the fixed maximum percentages of imported parts which may be incorporated in locally manufactured vehicles.

Decree 202 requires importers to issue an importation certificate for each new vehicle imported. Similarly, local manufacturers are required to issue certificates of manufacture.

Decree 203 allows local manufacturers to use imported parts in the manufacture of vehicles under approved inter-company exchange agreements with foreign companies. In addition, resolutions 71 and 72 have been issued establishing the customs valuations for imported parts and the minimum official cif prices for imported vehicles.

Copies of the decrees and resolutions are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Australia

Domestic chest-type freezers. The Australian government has announced that from 5 February, the following freezers have been excepted from import licensing controls:

Domestic electrical chest-type freezers of a kind falling within paragraph 84.15.22 in schedule 1 of the Customs Tariff Act, having the following characteristics:

a a gross internal capacity not exceeding 60 litres;

b a gross weight not exceeding 35 kg; and

c incorporating facilities to operate from both alternating and direct current power sources.

The by-law made under item 40 in schedule 2 of the Customs Tariff Act is being amended to exempt these freezers from the 12½ per cent special duty imposed in the August 1978 budget on consumer goods subject to quota or licensing.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Toilet preparations, cosmetics, etc. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 11 August 1978, announced that the Australian Industries Assistance Commission (IAC) had been requested to inquire into and report on the question as to whether assistance should be accorded the local production of these goods.

The IAC's timetable will require witnesses at the inquiry to forward their statements of evidence, based on the IAC's questionnaire, not later than 6 April. Meanwhile those intending to submit evidence and to appear as witnesses at the public inquiry, the date of which will be notified later, should inform the IAC immediately of their interest.

Correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600, marked for the attention of Mr W. M. Calman.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

Ref: CRE 1256/78

Preferential entry of certain goods. Under present Australian regulations it is possible for goods imported from the UK to qualify for admission into Australia at preferential rates of duty in certain circumstances where the goods do not in fact contain the appropriate proportion of qualifying material.

In such cases the finished goods contain what is known as a 'determined manufactured raw material' and it is for the exporter to apply to the Bureau of Customs for the grant of this classification. Materials so designated are those that are not reasonably available from UK or Australian production or manufacture.

Until recently it has been the practice of the Bureau of Customs to admit finished products containing such materials at preferential rates from the time the application was lodged for determination of the raw material, but because subsequent inquiries revealed that determination was not appropriate, Customs have changed their procedure. In future, goods wholly manufactured in the UK containing material for which the classification 'determined manufactured raw material' is sought will not be accorded the benefit of preferential tariff rates until the determination has been published in the *Gazette*.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

Ref: CRE 50168 CRE 41544

Luggage. The public hearing to consider comments on the Australian Industries Assistance Commission's draft report on the long-term assistance needs of the local industry producing travel goods, brief cases, toilet cases, etc, will now be held on 9 April instead of 15 March.

The venue will be: Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 16th Floor, 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

Ref: CRE 255/78

Spirits and spirituous beverages, etc. The Australian Industries Assistance Commission (IAC) has issued a draft report of its inquiry into the question of the long-term protection requirements for this sector of industry.

The draft report is being made available to give interested parties an opportunity to examine and comment on it before recommendations are forwarded to government.

The commission will hold further public hearings as follows to consider comments:

9 April
9th Floor, AMP Building, 1 King Street, Adelaide.
11 April
Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 16th Floor, 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

Ref: CRE 1533/77

Works trucks, certain mobile machines. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 27 October 1978, reported the date of the inquiry into the assistance needs of the sector of Australian industry producing goods falling within tariff item 87.07 covering mechanically propelled work trucks of the type used in factories, airports etc (including platform trucks and straddle carriers); tractors used on railway stations and

New tableware designs from Britain

Heat resistant melamine mats and matching condiment sets from the latest range of Clover Leaf Giftware products will be offered in Singapore and Malaysia when export sales manager, Robert Johnson, visits as a member of the Hardware Manufacturers' Association trade mission which starts today (23 March).

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel. direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757. In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

parts for such trucks and tractors; and mobile machines incorporating elevating masts to which are normally attached buckets, tines and the like falling within tariff items 84.22.5 and 84.22.9.

The Australian government has now considered the recommendations made by the Industries Assistance Commission and has decided that the long-term assistance to the local production of these products should remain unchanged except in the case of straddle carriers which will now carry a uniform duty of 20 per cent.

Internal combustion powered forklift trucks with a lifting capacity of between 1500 and 4000 kg, tariff item 87.07.12, previously dutiable at 30 per cent plus temporary duty of 2,500 dollars will now carry a duty of 30 per cent plus 1,500 dollars, reducing to 30 per cent plus 750 dollars from 7 March 1980 and to 30 per cent from 1 January 1981.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

High-priced footwear. Australian imports of footwear having a value for duty (vfd) exceeding 24 dollars per pair, are exempt from import licensing.

This threshold price level is adjusted each six months in line with movements in the footwear component of the Australian consumer price index. The next adjustment, which will raise the threshold price level to a vfd exceeding 25 dollars per pair, will come into effect on 1 July.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Brazil

Prior deposits reduced. Brazil's National Monetary Council announced on 24 January, measures to eliminate the 100 per cent deposit on imports by reductions of 10 per cent every six months.

The first reduction of 10 per cent came into effect on 25 January and further cuts of 10 per cent will take place at six monthly intervals from 30 June 1979 until 30 June 1983, when no prior import deposit will be required.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Burundi

Tariff amendments. The government of Burundi has announced changes in the revenue duty for the following imports from 1 September 1978.

870235: Motor vehicles of 9 hp or less, for the transport of persons, pay 40 per cent.
870236: Motor vehicles for the transport of persons of 9 to 13 hp, pay 80 per cent.
87037: Motor vehicles for the transport of persons of 13 hp and over, pay 100 per cent.
870920: Motorcycles, pay 45 per cent.
870930: Autocycles and cycles fitted with an auxilliary motor, pay 45 per cent.
870940: Motorscooters pay 45 per cent.
870990: Sidecars of all kinds pay 45 per cent.
871320: Baby carriages pay 50 per cent.
880224: Flying machines, gliders and kites, rotochutes – powered, except those used for international traffic, government services or interior lines recognised by the government, pay 100 per cent.
880230: Flying machines, gliders and kites, rotochutes – not powered, pay 100 per cent.
880410: Parachutes and their parts and accessories, pay 100 per cent.
880510: Catapults and similar aircraft launching gear, ground trainers and their parts, pay 100 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 472.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Denmark

Foodstuffs. Danish law 108 of 29 March 1978 amends law 310 of 6 June 1973 on foodstuffs. Copies of the amendment can be obtained from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 408/423.

Egypt

Import of cars. Business visitors and tourists arriving by ferry at Alexandria with their cars must be in possession of a carnet de passage. Without this document they are now likely to be sent back, with their car, to the ferry's point of departure.

It is now increasingly difficult for businessmen to import their cars duty-free, though many of them have done so in the past with a carnet de passage, taking the car out of Egypt once a year to satisfy the formalities.

Duty is about 117 per cent on a four-cylinder car and 217 per cent on a six-cylinder (and above) car.

Businessmen may well find themselves with the choice of paying the duty on entry or having to leave their cars in a compound at Alexandria harbour, liable to demurrage charges, until the bill for duty has been settled.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5358.

France

Fresh poultry meat. An order was published in the French *Official Journal*, 4 March, modifying the order of 4 February 1977 on the entry of fresh poultry meat into France. The modification concerns the preparation of poultry carcasses by washing, chilling and freezing.

Copies of the French text are available on request from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423/408/439.

Standards for foodstuffs. A notice published in the French *Official Journal*, 1 March, officially approved the following standards as from March:

General methods for sampling and testing:

Cheeses (NF V 04-290): determining content of nitrates and nitrate-reduction methods using cadmium and photometry.

Fruit (NF V 05-121): determination of the nitrate and nitrate content of fruit, vegetables and bi-products.

Starch (NF V 03-610): determination of total fat content in processed and non-processed starch.

Spices (NF V 32-106): specifications for clove powder.

Copies of the French text of this notice only, are available on request.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423/408/439.

Cats and dogs. A notice in the French *Official Journal*, 28 February, outlines the procedure for importing cats and dogs into France. The notice also repeals the provisions made in the notice published in the *Official Journal*, 20 June 1975.

Copies of the French text are available on request from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423/408/439.

Standards for toys. The following information was issued in the French *Official Journal*, 1 March:

Standards NFS 51-202 and NFS 51-203 of July 1976 relating to the mechanical and physical properties and also the inflammability of toys and games are repealed from 15 March and are replaced by standards NFS 51-202 and NFS 51-203 (March 1979).

Copies of the French text of this notice are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423/408/430.

Secondary gas installations. The French *Official Journal*, 1 March, announced that standard NF D 36-103 has been approved. The standard relates to pipes reinforced with a mechanised nozzle for connecting domestic appliances using gas combustion. The order comes into effect from 1 March.

Copies of the French text of this notice are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423/408/439.

Poisonous substances in toys. An order published in the French *Official Journal*, 25 January, added dimethoxy–3,3 benzidine or o-dianisidine and their salts to table A, section 1 of the list of poisonous substances.

Decree 79-95, 25 January, published in the French *Official Journal*, 3 February, added dimethoxy–3,3′ benzidine or orthodianisidine and their salts to the list of poisonous substances which are forbidden to be used in the manufacture of toys and games.

Copies of the French texts are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 432/408/439.

Agricultural machines. The following standards relating to agricultural mechanisation have been repealed:

NF U 21-051, 22-021, 22-022, 22-023 (May 1948)

They are replaced by the standard NF U 20-150. Also, standard NF U 24-151 (May 1948) is replaced by standard NF U 24-050.

A notice published in the French *Official Journal*, 1 March, stated that the following French standard replaces one of the same type:

NF U 14-102 (May 1979) – relating to agricultural machinery, tractors and mechanised farming machinery, spine-shaft of the workings, speed, rotating direction and location. The standard was approved from 1 March.

Copies of the French text are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423/408/439.

Steel wine vats. Standard NF U 62-164 has been approved from 1 March. This standard concerning steel wine fermentation vats made in workshops was published in the French *Official Journal*, 1 March.

Copies of the French text are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423/408/439.

Import of sheep and sheepmeat. A notice in the French *Official Journal*, 28 February, announced modifications in the provisions of the notice to importers published in the *Official Journal*, 26 February 1978, concerning the import of sheep for slaughter and fresh or frozen sheepmeat from all countries excluding the original six members of the EEC.

A copy of these new provisions can be obtained from either the Ministère de l'Agriculture, 3 rue Barbet-de-Jouy, 75700 Paris, or from the Office national interprofessionel du bétail et des viandes (Onibev), tour Maine-Montparnasse, 3 avenue du Maine, 75755 Paris.

Copies of the French text of the notice are available on request from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423/408/439.

Jamaica

Restricted and banned imports. The Jamaica authorities have issued new lists of restricted and banned items. Import licences for items on the restricted list will not be issued unless local industry is unable to supply the item or an appropriate substitute.

Items on the banned list are subject to an absolute import ban. The lists cover a large range of food and drink products, consumer goods, pharmaceuticals and capital goods.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Railway bogies rolling to Tanzania

The first of 1020 freight-wagon bogies for Tanzania Railways are already rolling off the production line at the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Company, which has just completed an even larger order for Kenya. The final units, awaiting shipment, are here being checked before despatch. The Tanzanian order, worth £3.5 million, is now proceeding and 50 units are leaving the production line each week. They will be fitted to wagons being supplied by BRe-Metro Ltd.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Republic of (South) Korea

Economic and social development plan. A copy of South Korea long-term economic and social development plan 1977-91 has now been received. It was produced in early 1978 by the Korean Development Institute and attempts to identify the major tasks facing the Korean economy in the coming 15 years and to suggest policy directions based on new developments on the domestic and external fronts.

It is available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Room D16, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368/369. Copies are available for loan in Microfiche Format only; applications will be dealt with in strict order of receipt.

Trade and Industry, 12 May 1978, advertised a translation of a paper given by the President of the Institute, summarising these 15 year projections. This translation is still available from: Tim Norman, Department of Trade, CRE, Room 314, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5642.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs tariff application list 9/79, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 9 March, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

1 Yarn of acrylic fibres (discontinuous or waste), not put up for retail sale, classifiable under tariff subheading 56.05.30.
2 Crash helmets, classifiable under tariff subheading 65.06.40.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the applications are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the applications it should address inquiries to CRE 01-215 5274.

Suriname

Smoking tobacco. According to a notice appearing in the Dutch journal *Wereldmarkt* 8, 22 February, the import duty on smoking tobacco (tariff heading 24.02 C 1) was increased from 8 Suriname guilders per kg to 12 Suriname guilders per kg for imports from EEC countries as well as from non-EEC countries from 6 January.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Sweden

Agricultural import levies. The State Agricultural Board has announced that the agricultural levies for certain items contained in the following headings have been amended as from March:

01.03, 02.01, 02.05, 02.06, 07.01, 10.03, 10.04, 11.01, 11.02, 12.04, 16.01, 16.02, 23.02, 23.03, 23.06, 23.07

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 459.

Thailand

Various yarns. The Thai Board of Investment has issued notice 9/2522 imposing a special fee on the import of the following:

1 Special fee of 30 per cent of the cif price on the import of discontinuous polyester fibre coming under CCCN 56.01, and polyester stretched yarn and nylon stretched yarn coming under CCCN 51.01 and CCCN 51.03.
2 Special fee of 10 per cent of the cif price on the import of continuous polyester filament yarn and continuous nylon filament yarn coming under CCCN 51.01 and CCCN 51.03.

The Board of Investment will decide which imports pay the special fee and inform the customs department accordingly.

This notice came into effect on 6 February and remains in force until 5 February 1980.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

Uruguay

Vegetable oils and flour. Under decree 635/978, 15 January 1978, issued by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the import duty, package handling charge and prior deposit requirements are suspended on certain vegetable oils, crude, semi-refined and refined, classified under tariff 15.07 and sunflower and soya flour classified under tariff 12.02.

In addition the surcharge on vegetable oils is reduced to 15 per cent and abolished on sunflower and soya flour.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Diesel engines. Decree 645/978, 4 October 1978, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 27 November 1978, exempts from all import duties, taxes and other charges partially-assembled diesel engines, kits and parts of kits of diesel engines, intended for diesel engine plants.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

United States

Rpm adaptors. The United States' International Trade Commission voted unanimously on 28 February that imports of rpm adaptors were not causing and were not likely to cause injury to the United States' industry. The anti-dumping case has therefore been terminated.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators [2]

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	Manufacturing industry	Wholesalers'	Retailers'	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1975 prices		at 1975 prices			at 1975 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1977	1975	£ million	£ million			£ million				£ million		
						34,469	19,995	4,540	3,181			
1973	103.3	65 586	21 609	3 504	4 674	2 983	1 336	432	624	−999	−2 383	1 384
1974	101.4	64 212	21 175	3 822	4 605	1 462	1 288	361	−180	−3 591	−5 235	1 644
1975	100.0	63 385	20 488	3 522	3 841	−1 625	−1 221	−249	−100	−1 843	−3 236	1 393
1976	103.0	63 540	20 415	3 345	3 926	260	316	131	13	−1 137	−3 601	2 464
1977	105.0	62 954	19 966	3 573	4 325	978	442	266	29	298	−1 744	2 042
1978	108.1 p	66 397 p	20 408 p	3 833	4 671	944	544	17	333	254	−1 175	1 429
1976 2nd qtr	102.4	15 834	5 111	828	972	−74	−29	−10	−67	−328	−949	621
3rd qtr	103.3	15 934	5 184	849	1 005	163	99	81	46	−411	−1 136	725
4th qtr	104.3	16 007	4 958	856	1 014	259	260	17	27	−315	−966	651
1977 1st qtr	103.9	15 622	4 820	851	1 030	430	235	82	117	−428	−946	518
2nd qtr	104.5	15 551	5 007	879	1 044	293	97	179	4	−297	−779	482
3rd qtr	105.1	15 876	5 069	910	1 103	−70	−6	−80	−59	522	−3	525
4th qtr	106.5	15 905	5 070	932	1 149	325	116	85	−33	501	−16	517
1978 1st qtr	105.9	16 296	5 140	922	1 169	290	38	81	62	−341	−596	255
2nd qtr	108.4	16 487	5 157	961	1 180	280	272	−62	128	146	−173	319
3rd qtr	109.2	16 858	5 128	982	1 168	302	175	45	54	51	−367	418
4th qtr	108.8 p	16 756 p	4 983 p	968	1 153	72 p	60	−47	89	398	−39	437
% change last 2 qtrs on prev. 2 qtrs.	+1.7	+2.5	−1.8	+3.6	−1.2							
on a year earlier	+3.0	+5.8	−0.3	+5.9	+3.1							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and earnings					Labour (UK)			Visible trade (volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices		Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry		Average gross earnings of all employees (GB, all industries and services covered)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students		Unfilled vacancies for adults	Export	Import
				monthly averages		% increase on a year earlier	basic materials and fuel used	manufactured products: home sales		mid-month count	% of total employees	mid-month count	On a balance of payment basis	
	at 1975 prices		at 1971 prices		(not seasonally adjusted)				(old series)				at 1975 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1975	1975	1971 16,296	thousands	Jan. 1974		1975	1975	Jan. 1970	thousands		thousands	1975 19,463	1975 22,699
1973	109.5	108.4	110.3	137.1	93.5	9.1	58.8	66.7	152.1	611.0	2.6	307.0	97.7	108.8
1974	105.1	106.5	109.0	102.8	108.5	16.0	86.8	81.8	179.1	599.7'	2.6'	302.7'	104.2	109.7
1975	100.0	100.0	106.7	97.2	134.8	24.2	100.0	100.0	226.6	929.0	3.9	150.0'	100.0	100.0
1976	102.0	101.4	106.5	104.7	157.1	16.5	127.0	117.3	261.9	1 269.8'	5.4'	120.4'	109.7	105.6
1977	105.8	102.8	103.6	107.1	182.0	15.8	145.6	140.5	288.5	1 378.1	5.8	155.6'	118.9	107.2
1978	109.7	103.5	109.2	130.1	197.1	8.3	144.6	153.3	330.2	1 375.6	5.8	210.3	122.9	112.6
1977 1st qtr	105.6	103.9	103.3	104	174.1	16.5	144.8	133.0	280.0	1 329.5	5.6		115.9	108.8
2nd qtr	105.5	102.4	102.4	103	181.9	17.4	148.8	139.6	285.3	1 340.6	5.6	157.7	117.7	110.6
3rd qtr	106.2	103.0	104.2	112	184.7	16.5	146.5	143.8	288.3	1 414.6	5.9	151.9	124.6	107.3
4th qtr	105.8	101.8	104.7	110	187.4	13.1	142.2	145.8	300.4	1 427.8	6.0	160.1	117.3	102.3
1978 1st qtr	107.0	102.2	106.4	131	190.6	9.5	140.2	149.2	310.8	1 409.4	5.9	187.7	119.6	113.5
2nd qtr	110.7	104.5	107.9	132	195.8	7.7	146.3	151.8	329.0	1 372.7	5.7	210.3	122.2	109.7
3rd qtr	111.4	104.9	110.7	135	199.2	7.8	144.9	154.8	334.6	1 380.5	5.8	213.0	124.8	114.9
4th qtr	109.6	102.5	111.7	123	202.6	8.1	147.1	157.3	346.4	1 339.7	5.6	230.3	124.8	112.3
1979 1st qtr										1 350.7	5.7	233.8		
1978 Mar	106.8	102.4	107.2	145	191.8	9.1	142.0	150.0	314.8	1 400.0	5.9	195.8	120.4	116.3
Apr	111.0	105.1	106.9	134	194.6	7.9	145.1	150.9	325.7	1 387.1	5.8	203.7	124.3	104.8
May	110.0	103.5	108.2	126	195.7	7.7	146.8	151.9	327.2	1 366.4	5.7	209.9	120.5	113.3
Jun	111.1	105.0	108.6	135	197.2	7.4	147.0	152.7	334.0	1 364.7	5.7	217.4	121.9	111.1
Jul	111.5	104.9	111.0	109	198.1	7.8	145.8	153.8	332.7	1 371.4	5.7	211.0	125.7	114.3
Aug	112.0	105.7	111.7	148	199.4	8.0	144.2	154.8	333.2	1 392.1	5.8	209.3	124.5	111.3
Sep	110.6	104.1	109.6	146	200.2	7.8	144.8	155.7	338.0	1 378.3	5.8	218.7	124.3	119.1
Oct	108.5	101.7	110.2	134	201.1	7.8	145.7	156.6	344.8	1 359.6	5.7	228.4	125.9	110.8
Nov	109.4	102.3	110.5	119	202.5	8.1	147.3	157.1	343.5	1 338.8	5.6	231.3	122.5	113.7
Dec	111.0	103.4	113.8	115	204.2	8.4	148.3	158.3	351.0	1 320.7	5.5	231.2	126.0	112.5
1979 Jan	104.4 p	94.9 p	109.6	121	207.2	9.3	150.4 p	159.8 p	344.4 p	1 339.1	5.6	235.9	113.1	107.3
Feb			111½ p		208.9	9.6	151.1 p	161.5 p		1 362.5	5.7	230.9		
Mar										1 350.4 p	5.7	235.9 p		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−1.9	−3.5	+1.5	−17.1	+2.7		+2.7	+2.2	+2.3	+0.8		+1.7	−3½	−2
on a year earlier	+1.9	−1.9	+5.2	+4.7	+9.1		+7.2	+8.1	+14.0	−4.2		+24.8	+5	+5½

p Provisional e Estimate ' Average of available months [2] Including figures published by 19 March 1979 * Figures due to be revised

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

Combined engineering sectors: sales and orders up to December

Addition of information for December and revisions to earlier months have had a substantial impact upon the trend and seasonally adjusted volume indices of sales and orders for the combined engineering sector. The main effect has been to improve the position of orders but export sales have also benefited to some extent.

The trend of total sales is now seen to have been flat since April 1978 at a level only slightly higher than that of the previous two years. There is no sign as yet of a sustained upturn in sales but the behaviour of the new orders series must give grounds for hope in the longer term. The major feature in the new orders series is the very sharp increase in the revised seasonally adjusted figures for November followed by a further high level of intake in December. This upsurge is understood to be mainly due to orders placed by the Central Electricity Generating Board in connection with work on the second stage of the Drax power station near Selby in Yorkshire. Naturally this has had a substantial effect upon orders on hand which rose, according to the seasonally adjusted estimate by about 7 per cent between end September and end December.

The pattern in the home market is very similar to that for engineering as a whole. The trend of sales has been essentially flat over the last eight months but at a higher level than was reached in 1976 or 1977. Orders on hand were strongly boosted by the CEGB order and rose by about 11 per cent between end September and end December. The long-term trend of home new orders has been upward for more than three years now.

The export market is much more erratic generally than the home. The trend in export sales has been declining very gently from an ill defined peak in the second quarter of 1978 but there are signs of a possible revival in the seasonally adjusted figure for December. The prospects for this market are moderately encouraging since the trend in new orders has risen strongly since the middle of 1978 leading to some increase in the length of export order books.

The revised figures published in this table are based on the monthly engineering inquiry relating to December 1978. The response rate of 78 per cent to the inquiry for December 1978 is judged sufficient to justify publication of provisional indices for this month. Taking into account late returns now received for September, October and November response rates for these months were 92, 90 and 87 per cent respectively.

An expanded commentary, together with

Notes to table

[1] This ratio shows the number of months work in the order book in the base year at the then average rate of sales. [2] For orders-on-hand the percentage changes compare the level at the end of the latest period shown with the corresponding level for the earlier period. The percentage charges have been based on the unrounded values and are given to the nearest half percentage point. p Provisional.

Volume index numbers for the combined engineering industries up to December

	Total			Home			Export		
	1975 average = 100	1975 average monthly sales = 100		1975 average = 100	1975 average monthly sales = 100		1975 average = 100	1975 average monthly sales = 100	
	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales
Ratio orders-on-hand/ av monthly sales in 1975 [1]	7.7			7.3			8.6		
Trend estimates									
1976									
July	80	94	96	78	88	95	84	107	99
August	80	96	96	77	89	95	86	114	99
September	80	98	96	76	90	95	88	118	100
October	81	99	97	76	91	95	90	119	101
November	81	100	97	75	92	95	92	118	102
December	81	99	98	75	93	95	94	115	102
1977 p									
January	81	99	97	74	93	95	95	113	102
February	82	98	97	74	93	95	96	112	102
March	82	98	97	74	92	94	97	111	102
April	82	97	96	74	91	93	98	110	103
May	82	97	96	73	91	93	99	111	105
June	82	96	96	73	90	92	99	110	106
July	82	96	96	73	91	92	99	108	107
August	82	96	96	73	92	92	99	106	107
September	82	96	96	73	93	92	99	105	106
October	82	98	96	74	94	92	99	105	105
November	82	99	96	74	95	92	99	107	104
December	83	100	96	74	96	93	99	109	104
1978 p									
January	83	100	97	75	96	94	100	109	105
February	83	100	98	75	96	95	100	108	106
March	83	98	98	75	95	95	100	106	106
April	83	97	99	75	95	95	99	102	107
May	83	96	99	75	95	96	98	99	107
June	83	97	99	75	96	96	98	99	107
July	83	99	99	75	98	96	97	103	106
August	83	102	99	76	101	96	97	107	106
September	84	106	99	77	104	96	98	110	106
October	85	110	99	78	107	96	98	112	105
November	86	113	99	80	113	96	99	114	105
December	88	116	99	82	116	96	99	117	107
Percentage change [2] Sep-Dec 1978	+4.5	+10.5	+0.5	+6.0	+12.0	—	+2.0	+7.0	+1.0
Seasonally adjusted									
1973	113	116	98	119	120	105	100	106	84
1974	114	103	102	115	102	104	112	106	97
1975	88	84	100	87	83	100	90	84	100
1976	81	92	96	74	87	95	94	103	100
1977 p	83	98	96	75	93	93	100	109	104
1978 p	89	103	99	84	101	96	100	107	106
1976									
1st qtr	84	85	96	83	83	93	86	90	100
2nd	80	87	97	79	86	96	82	89	101
3rd	80	97	96	77	90	95	87	114	99
4th	81	100	97	74	90	94	94	123	103
1977 p									
1st qtr	82	99	97	74	94	95	97	109	101
2nd	82	98	97	73	90	93	100	115	106
3rd	82	96	97	73	92	92	99	105	108
4th	83	100	96	75	97	93	100	105	103
1978 p									
1st qtr	83	99	99	75	95	95	100	109	107
2nd	82	95	98	75	94	95	98	99	105
3rd	83	103	100	76	100	98	98	108	106
4th	89	113	99	84	114	95	100	111	107
1977 p									
January	81	103	100	74	98	98	95	115	105
February	81	99	98	75	97	96	95	102	101
March	82	94	93	74	88	92	97	110	97
April	82	101	98	74	93	95	98	120	106
May	82	98	94	74	90	90	100	116	103
June	82	93	97	73	87	93	100	109	108
July	81	93	98	73	94	94	98	92	109
August	82	102	95	74	96	90	99	116	106
September	82	93	97	73	87	91	99	106	109
October	82	99	97	73	95	93	99	109	106
November	82	94	93	74	95	89	98	93	101
December	83	106	97	75	102	95	100	115	102
1978 p									
January p	83	93	96	75	92	92	99	97	105
February	84	110	98	75	97	94	102	139	106
March	83	95	102	75	97	99	100	91	111
April	83	93	96	75	90	93	99	100	103
May	83	101	99	75	100	96	99	104	107
June	82	92	99	75	91	96	98	94	106
July	83	99	98	76	104	95	96	89	105
August	83	102	101	76	97	96	96	114	111
September	83	106	102	76	99	102	98	122	102
October	84	100	96	76	97	93	99	105	104
November	88	130	97	83	139	93	99	109	106
December	89	110	102	84	106	98	100	119	110
July-Sep 1978 (av)	83	103	100	76	100	98	98	108	106
Oct-Dec 1978 (av)	89	113	99	84	114	95	100	111	107
Percentage change [2]	+7.0	+10.5	−1.5	+11.0	+14.0	−2.5	+1.5	+2.5	+0.5

additional tables, is given in Business Monitor PM 33-36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders), obtainable from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, post free for a subscription of £4.32 per annum. Separate commentaries and volume indices are given for sales, orders-on-hand and new orders for total, home and export markets, for mechanical, instrument and electrical engineering (SIC orders VII, VIII and IX respectively).

The same nine series are given for each of the 36 industries within engineering in a quarterly Business Monitor PQ 33-36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders), also obtainable from HMSO for a subscription of £1.56 per annum.

Inquiries: Department of Industry, Room 607, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG, tel. 01-212 5770.

Price Commission index for February

The rise in the Price Commission index over the six months to February was 10.1 per cent expressed as an annual rate. The corresponding figure for January was 8.7 per cent.

Over the 12 months to February the index rose by 7.3 per cent – the same as in the 12 months to January 1979. The figures for January have been revised to take into account later information.

Percentage changes over six-month periods in Price Commission index, retail prices index and wholesale price index: annualised rates

Six months to	Price Commission index	Retail prices index [1]	Wholesale price index [2]
1976			
July	12.6	12.9	15.6
August	12.4	13.2	16.8
September	13.5	14.5	18.2
October	16.9	14.4	18.5
November	19.3	14.2	20.1
December	18.2	15.2	20.3
1977			
January	18.2	18.0	25.2
February	19.0	18.4	24.5
March	20.8	18.7	23.4
April	17.4	19.7	25.2
May	16.1	20.0	23.7
June	15.0	19.6	24.0
July	14.3	15.6	18.6
August	11.5	14.9	16.7
September	7.8	14.1	15.6
October	7.3	9.9	11.7
November	5.8	8.7	8.6
December	6.0	7.4	7.1
1978			
January	5.9	7.2	7.2
February	7.2	7.2	7.7
March	7.5	6.8	7.9
April	7.2	8.4	7.9
May	6.8	8.6	8.7
June	6.1	8.9	8.9
July	5.9	9.1	7.6
August	4.5	9.6	7.6
September	4.3	9.6	7.7
October	4.7	7.7	7.7
November	4.9	8.0	7.0
December	5.7	8.2	7.5
1979			
January	8.7	8.9	8.0
February	10.1 p	. .	8.8

[1] Excluding seasonal foods. [2] Manufactured products.
p Provisional.

Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments

As explained in last week's issue (page 582), it has not been possible to publish the overseas trade figures for February.

The following tables include, for the major series (that is those appearing in tables 2 and 4 of the usual monthly article), the latest monthly figures. These have been revised since the article on the January figures (issue of 23 February), and are consistent with the quarterly figures released by the Central Statistical Office on the United Kingdom balance of payments in the fourth quarter of 1978, issued on 7 March. Table 1 also contains a revised projection of the surplus on invisibles for January.

Inquiries: 01-215 5703.

Table 1 Current balance, visible trade and invisible trade

Balance of payments basis — *£ million seasonally adjusted*

	Current balance	Visible trade: Visible balance	Visible trade: Exports fob	Visible trade: Imports fob	Invisible balance
1977	+298	−1 744	32 148	33 892	+2 042
1978	+254	−1 175	35 432	36 607	+1 429
1977 1st quarter	−428	−946	7 520	8 466	+518
2nd quarter	−297	−779	7 921	8 700	+482
3rd quarter	+522	−3	8 531	8 534	+525
4th quarter	+501	−16	8 176	8 192	+517
1978 1st quarter	−341	−596	8 408	9 004	+255
2nd quarter	+146	−173	8 753	8 926	+319
3rd quarter	+51	−367	9 051	9 418	+418
4th quarter	+398	−39	9 220	9 259	+437
1978 September	−78	−218	3 032	3 250	+140 [2]
October	+182	+36	3 073	3 037	+146 [2]
November	+29	−116	3 020	3 136	+145 [2]
December	+187	+41	3 127	3 086	+146 [2]
1979 January	+11 [1]	−119	2 814	2 933	+130 [1]

[1] Invisibles are projections and subject to revision as information becomes available. [2] One third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate; monthly figures of invisibles are not available.

Table 2 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers

Balance of payments basis — Indices 1975 = 100

	Unit value (Not seasonally adjusted): Exports	Unit value: Imports	Unit value: Terms of trade [1]	Volume (Seasonally adjusted): Exports	Volume: Imports
1977	142.5	141.3	100.8	118.9	107.2
1978	155.1	146.4	105.9	122.9	122.6
1977 1st quarter	135.8	137.1	99.1	115.9	108.8
2nd quarter	141.5	140.7	100.6	117.7	110.6
3rd quarter	145.3	143.4	101.3	124.6	107.3
4th quarter	147.4	143.9	102.4	117.3	102.3
1978 1st quarter	149.6	141.5	105.7	119.6	113.5
2nd quarter	153.2	146.0	104.9	122.2	109.7
3rd quarter	157.0	148.0	106.1	124.8	114.9
4th quarter	160.6	150.3	106.9	124.8	112.3
1978 September	158.7	148.6	106.8	124.3	119.1
October	159.1	149.7	106.3	125.9	110.8
November	161.3	150.1	107.5	122.5	113.7
December	161.5	151.0	107.0	126.0	112.5
1979 January	163.3	151.6	107.7	113.1	107.3

[1] Export unit value index as a percentage of the import unit value index.

Balance of payments

Pink book 1978

This publication, *United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1967-77*, prepared by the Central Statistical Office, is designed as a standard reference book for UK balance of payments statistics over a long run of years up to 1977. In addition to summary tables showing the general balance of payments for the United Kingdom, it contains 14 sections of tables each with comprehensive notes and definitions. Some of these expand the detail for individual sectors of the accounts; others deal with associated areas such as the financing of private investment and its overall effects on the balance of payments, estimating the City's overseas earnings, etc.

Price £3.95. ISBN 0 11 630177 5

Average earnings in January and basic rates of wages in February

Average earnings of employees in Great Britain are estimated to have risen by 11.7 per cent between January 1978 and January 1979. This estimate is based on the monthly index for the whole economy, covering in total about 21 million employees, which was introduced from January 1976. Recent figures are given in table 1.

Table 1 Index of average earnings of employees in Great Britain

Whole economy (new) series, not seasonally adjusted

	Index Jan 1976 = 100	Percentage increase over 12 months
1977		
December	121.7	9.4
1978		
January	121.5	9.5
February	122.7	10.5
March	125.0	10.4
April	127.2	12.4
May	129.4	12.6
June	133.1	15.4
July	133.6	14.2
August	131.7	13.9
September	134.2	15.1
October	135.2	14.7
November	136.1	13.3
December	138.0	13.3
1979		
January p	135.7	11.7

p Provisional.

In the production and certain other industries, employing in total about 11 million employees, and covered by the older series index introduced from January 1963, earnings increased by about 12.5 per cent over the 12 months to January. Figures are given in table 2.

Table 2 Index of average earnings in production industries and some services [1]

Older series

		Seasonally adjusted		
	Index January 1970 = 100	Index January 1970 = 100	Percentage increase over previous month	Percentage increase over previous 12 months
1978				
June	336.6	334.0	2.1	16.6
July	338.0	332.7	−0.4	16.2
August	332.8	333.2	0.1	15.8
September	339.6	338.0	1.5	16.2
October	345.6	344.8	2.0	16.6
November	347.9	343.5	−0.4	14.3
December	351.2	351.0	2.2	15.2
1979				
January p	344.6	344.4	−1.9	12.5

p Provisional.

[1] Transport and communication (other than sea transport and postal services) and some miscellaneous services.

Indices of basic rates of wages

At the end of February 1979, nationally-negotiated basic weekly rates of wages of manual workers were on average 16.7 per cent higher than a year earlier. During February, the index of basic weekly rates increased from 277.0 to 277.6.

The indices only take account of changes in nationally negotiated rates. The year-on-year increases consequently reflect that national rates for engineering workers remained unchanged from February 1976 until April 1978.

Table 3 Indices of basic rates of wages

	Indices, 31 July 1972 = 100		Percentage increase over previous 12 months	
	Basic weekly rates	Basic hourly rates	Basic weekly rates	Basic hourly rates
1978				
30 September	266.5	268.1	16.3	16.3
31 October	270.6	272.2	17.9	17.9
30 November	272.1	273.8	17.7	17.7
31 December	273.3	275.0	17.3	17.3
1979				
31 January	277.0	278.8	17.1	17.1
28 February	277.6	279.6	16.7	16.8

Inquiries: Department of Employment, Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts WD1 1PJ, tel. Watford 28500 ext. 319.

Release dates of economic statistics to be published in April

This information is issued by the Central Statistical Office on behalf of the Goverment Statistical Service and other organisations as a guide to the dates of publication of major economic series in April 1979. The dates are those which departments, or other organisations concerned, are aiming at, and would normally expect to meet. The release of the series in this notice and in that of 15 February may be affected by industrial action. Further inquiries about individual series should be addressed to the source named.

Publication date and series	Method of release	Source
April		
2 Mon		
Retail sales (feb – final)	PN	Department of Trade
Hire purchase and other instalment credit business (Feb)	PN	Department of Trade
Quarterly analysis of bank advances (mid-Feb)	PN	Bank of England
3 Tues		
CBI monthly trends inquiry (Mar)	PN	CBI
UK official reserves (Mar)	PN	Treasury
Capital issues and redemptions (during the month of March)	PN	Bank of England
5 Thurs		
Housing starts and completions (Feb)	PN	Department of the Environment
9 Mon		
Wholesale price index numbers (Mar – prov)	PN	Department of Industry
10 Tues		
Central government transactions (including borrowing requirement) (Mar)	PN	Treasury
London clearing banks' monthly statement (mid-Mar)	PN	CLCB
UK banks' eligible liabilities, reserve assets, reserve ratios and special deposits (mid-Mar)	PN	Bank of England
Provisional figures of vehicle production (Mar)	PN	Department of Industry
12 Thurs		
Retail prices index (Mar)	PN	Department of Employment
Index of industrial production (Feb – prov)	PN	CSO
Usable steel production (mar)	PN	BSC/BISPA
Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (Mar)	PN	Department of Trade/ CSO
18 Wed		
Retail sales (Mar – prov)	PN	Department of Trade
Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (Mar)	PN	Department of Employment
Monthly index of average earnings (Feb)	PN	Department of Employment
Building societies' receipts and loans (Mar)	PN	BSA
Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (Mar)	PN	CSO
19 Thurs		
Unemployment (Apr – prov)	PN	Department of Employment
Unfilled vacancies (Apr – prov)	PN	Department of Employment
UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid – Mar)	PN	Bank of England
London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid-Mar)	PN	Bank of England
20 Fri		
Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Jan)	*T & I*	Department of Industry
22 Sun		
Department for National Savings' monthly progress report (Mar)	PN	Department for National Savings
23 Mon		
Consumers' expenditure (1st qtr – 1st preliminary estimate)	PN	CSO
New vehicle registrations (Mar)	PN	Department of Transport
Construction – new orders (Feb)	PN	Department of the Environment
24 Tues		
Bricks and cement production (Mar)	PN	Department of the Environment
Industrial and commercial companies; appropriation account, net acquisition of financial assets and net borrowing requirement (4th qtr)	PN	CSO
26 Thurs		
Unemployment (Mar – final)	*Gazette*	Department of Employment
Employment in the production industries (Feb)	*Gazette*	Department of Employment
Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (Feb)	*Gazette*	Department of Employment
Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Mar)	*Gazette*	Department of Employment
Quarterly estimates of employees in employment (Dec)	*Gazette*	Department of Employment
Car and commercial vehicle production (Mar – final)	PN	Department of Industry
Institutional investment (4th qtr)	PN	CSO

Figures for National Income and Expenditure (4th qtr and year 1978) will be released on 30 March 1979.

Gas use hits record level

Gas sent out during January 1979 reached a weekly average of 490 million therms – an all time record for the industry.

Coal production in 1978 rose by 1.4 million tonnes (1.2 per cent) to 123.6 million tonnes. But Britain burned 2.9 per cent (3.6 million tonnes) less coal last year than in 1977. Coal consumption in the last quarter of the year, however, was three per cent higher than the year before.

Other highlights of this month's *Energy Trends* are:

Opencast coal production for 1978 increased by 4.5 per cent, bringing the total of 14.2 million tonnes close to the record level of 20 years ago. Petroleum deliveries during 1978 increased by 3.1 million tonnes of coal equivalent, 1.9 per cent more than in 1977. North Sea oil production last year reached 53.4 million tonnes.

Britain imported £4,486 million worth of petroleum in 1978, £600 million less than the previous year. Petroleum exports last year were worth £2,169 million, £192 million more than in 1977.

Output and employment in the construction industry: fourth quarter 1978

Output

According to provisional statistics issued by the Department of the Environment, the value of all construction work carried out by the construction industry in Great Britain during the fourth quarter of 1978 was £4,157 million. Expressed at constant (1975) prices and adjusted to exclude normal seasonal variations, total output (including repair and maintenance) was down 2 per cent on the third quarter of 1978, but up 4 per cent on the fourth quarter of 1977: in the year as a whole, output was 7 per cent higher than in 1977.

At constant prices and seasonally adjusted, new work output in the public housing sector during the fourth quarter of 1978 was down 7 per cent on the third quarter and 11 per cent on the fourth quarter of 1977: in 1978 as a whole, output was 6 per cent lower than in 1977. New private housing output in the fourth quarter of 1978 was 1 per cent lower than in the previous quarter, but 9 per cent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1977; output in 1978 was 13 per cent higher than in 1977.

New construction in the public non-housing sector in the fourth quarter of 1978 was down 3 per cent on the third quarter and 8 per cent on the corresponding quarter a year earlier; in 1978 as a whole, output was 3 per cent lower.

New private industrial output in the fourth quarter was 6 per cent lower than in the third quarter, but 3 per cent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1977; the year as a whole was up by 7 per cent. New private commercial output, making similar comparisons, was down 8 per cent and up 3 per cent, respectively, in the quarter and up 11 per cent in the year as a whole.

Repair and maintenance work in the housing sector (including improvement output) in the fourth quarter of 1978 was up 6 per cent on the third quarter and 14 per cent on the fourth quarter of 1977: in 1978, output was 17 per cent higher than in 1977. Repair and maintenance in the public non-housing sector was unchanged from the previous quarter, but 14 per cent higher than a year earlier; in 1978 as a whole output was up 12 per cent. In the private non-housing sector, output in the fourth quarter of 1978 was up 4 per cent on the previous quarter and 25 per cent on the fourth quarter of 1977: in the year as a whole, output was 24 per cent higher.

Employment

The provisional estimate (seasonally adjusted) of the number of employees in employment in January 1979 showed a marginal increase on October 1978 and an increase of 1 per cent since January 1978.

Indices of construction output

Great Britain. Seasonally adjusted 1975 = 100

	1975	1976	1977	1978 p	1977				1978			
	Year	Year	Year	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 p
New housing	100.0	108.6	100.6	104.4	98.3	98.6	102.8	102.9	102.8	106.1	106.3	102.4
For public sector	100.0	110.6	100.5	94.3	100.2	98.9	102.6	100.2	95.6	96.8	95.8	89.1
For private sector	100.0	106.6	100.8	114.1	96.5	98.3	102.9	105.5	109.8	115.1	116.4	115.2
Other new work	100.0	95.4	96.5	99.2	95.9	95.6	95.1	99.2	94.1	103.7	102.2	96.8
For public sector	100.0	99.1	94.4	91.2	95.8	94.1	91.5	96.2	89.4	95.2	91.6	88.7
For private sector	100.0	91.6	98.5	107.3	95.9	97.1	98.8	102.3	98.8	112.5	113.0	105.1
For private industrial	100.0	95.4	110.2	117.7	106.4	106.0	114.5	113.9	105.4	123.9	124.8	116.8
For private commercial	100.0	88.0	87.9	97.9	86.4	88.9	84.5	91.8	92.8	102.1	102.3	94.5
Total new work	100.0	100.4	98.0	101.2	96.8	96.7	98.0	100.6	97.4	104.6	103.8	98.9
Repair and maintenance	100.0	94.2	97.8	113.7	94.5	96.1	99.7	100.8	111.3	113.0	113.4	117.2
Housing	100.0	92.3	96.1	112.2	91.6	94.0	97.5	101.3	112.0	111.3	109.3	115.9
Public other work	100.0	94.7	95.6	107.2	95.6	95.1	97.1	94.6	105.3	107.3	108.4	107.9
Private other work	100.0	99.4	108.1	133.7	100.9	104.8	112.6	114.0	122.8	131.3	137.9	142.8
Total	100.0	98.5	98.0	104.9	96.1	96.5	98.5	100.7	101.5	107.1	106.6	104.4

p Provisional.

Patents recorded 'licences of right'

Under section 46 of the Patents Act 1977, the register was noted 'licences of right' in respect of the following patents on the date specified:

1 March 1979

1240979 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Reluctance motor power circuit
1295102 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Reluctance motors
1295103 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Reluctance motors
1328945 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Internal combustion engine having means for indicating crankshaft position
1447214 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Window regulator mechanism
1448430 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Auxiliary climate control system in a multi-passenger vehicle
1452462 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Seal construction for a rotary ceramic regenerator for use in a gas turbine engine
1452872 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Coating material
1454978 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Multiple input warning system in a motor vehicle
1459887 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Variable venturi carburetor
1460697 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Capacitor discharge ignition system
1462315 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Gas turbine power plant
1466544 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Carburetor choke system
1466824 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Vehicle switch assembly
1467554 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Air-conditioning system
1475456 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Gas turbine engine
1478431 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Capacitor discharge ignition system
1482437 Ford Motor Co Ltd
A method of making an article of silicon nitride
1485662 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Apex seal in a rotary engine
1485664 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Method and apparatus for adjusting the valve tappet clearances in internal combustion engines
1502984 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Variable venturi carburettor
1505882 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Coated ceramic material
1394158 International Standard Electric Corporation
Processor controlled telecommunication switching system
1500551 International Standard Electric Corporation
Changeover circuit arrangement for a clock-controlled electrical system
1288703 Companie Generale De Radiologie
Improvements in and relating to X-ray tubes having rotary anodes
1414077 Matsushita Electric Industrial Co Ltd
Method and apparatus for treating industrial waste liquid
1511622 Italsider SpA
A method for manufacturing steel sheet by controlled temperature rolling

Any person who claims that the proprietor of the patent is, and was at the time of entry, precluded by a contract in which the claimant is interested from granting licences under the patent may, within three months after the making of the relevant entry, apply to the Comptroller on patents form 31/77 for cancellation of the entry.

I. J. G. Davis, Comptroller

Endorsement 'licences of right' cancellation

Under section 36 of the Patents Act 1949, the following application for cancellation of endorsement 'licences of right' has been received.

1156965 Duraflex Housecrafts Ltd
Improvements in draught excluders for doors

Any person may give notice of opposition to the application by filing patents form 46 at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London WC2A 1AY, within one month from the date of publication of the *Official Journal* (Patents) dated 28 March 1979.

I. J. G. Davis, Comptroller

Business names and limited partnerships in Great Britain in 1978

During the year ended 31 December 1978, there were 139 841 new registrations under the Registration of Business Names Act 1916 (as amended by the Companies Act 1947). A total of 28 454 statements showing changes in particulars were filed during the period and 19 490 names were removed from the register.

There were 149 new registrations under the Limited Partnership Act 1907.

Advertisements for 'Trade and Industry'

All advertisement inquiries and bookings should be addressed to the Advertisement Department at 13 Great James Street, London WC1, telephone 01-242 9478.

Overseas direct net investment in 1977

UK outward direct investment overseas (excluding oil) and the net earnings on this investment both declined in 1977 from the peak reached in 1976, though both remained above the level in any year prior to 1976. Overseas net inward direct investment into the UK (excluding oil and insurance) and the net earnings on this investment both increased sharply in 1977 with the net investment rising above its previous peak in 1974.

This article presents the main results of the Department of Trade's detailed inquiry into overseas direct investment and the earnings on it in 1977. The detailed results, giving figures for each main country and industry, will be published in the Business Monitors series MA4, Overseas Transactions 1977, later this year. Copies of this Business Monitor may be obtained by standing order from HMSO; separate or additional copies are obtainable from the Librarian, Business Statistic Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent, NPT 1XG.

Preliminary estimates of direct investment and earnings in 1978 are also given in this article. These estimates, based on quarterly sample inquiries, are likely to be revised in the light of the results of the detailed inquiry for 1978. Direct investment and earnings are only two of the subjects covered by the department's overseas transactions inquiry. Overseas transactions in respect of film and television material in 1977 were the subject of an article in *Trade and Industry*, 25 August 1978; articles will appear soon on credit terms of exports; overseas royalties transactions.

The inquiry is voluntary, and the department expresses its appreciation for the co-operation of respondent firms. However, not all concerns approached responded and while the estimates of total outward and inward investment and earnings are thought to be fairly reliable, this is not the position for the outward investment and earnings of individual countries.

Outward direct investment and earnings. *Net investment.* Net outward direct investment overseas by UK companies, other than oil companies, fell by more than £300 million to £1,790 million in 1977, 15 per cent below the peak in 1976, but still some 10 per cent above the previous peak in 1974. The preliminary estimates for 1978 suggest there was a small partial recovery of 7 per cent in net investment (see chart 1 and table 1).

Changes in the value of sterling against other currencies probably had little affect on the comparison of net outward investment and earnings between 1977 and 1976. The average sterling exchange rate weighted by the value of outward earnings from direct investment for 1977 as a whole was virtually the same as that in 1976. The average sterling exchange rate for outward investment for 1978 as a whole was over 5 per cent higher than for 1977, and this will have depressed the sterling value of outward earnings and investment in 1978.

One factor causing the fall of over £300 million in net outward direct investment in 1977 was a large rise in borrowing from overseas subsidiaries. Outward direct investment is financed mainly by profits retained overseas – these accounted for some 70 per cent of net investment in 1977 – and by foreign currency borrowing. The borrowings of foreign currency by UK companies through UK banks or banks and other financial institutions abroad are not included in the figures of direct investment, though any overseas direct investment it finances is included. However, the direct investment figures do include amounts raised overseas by foreign subsidiaries of UK companies that are then on-lent to the UK parent company. These amounts are recorded as a decrease in amounts due to the UK parent on inter-company account, which thus reduces the value of net investment.

In both 1975 and 1976 this borrowing from overseas subsidiaries was around £70 million, but in 1977 it increased to £380 million. As a result of this borrowing the increase in the amount due to UK parent companies on inter-company account from overseas subsidiaries and associates was only £3 million in 1977 (see table 2). If this borrowing had been at the same level as in the previous year, with the balance being raised directly from overseas banks, etc, or borrowed from UK banks, then the level of outward direct investment in 1977 would have been virtually the same as in 1976, though there was a reduction of 16 per cent in net investment in manufacturing industry (see table 5). The borrowing from overseas subsidiaries is included with investment in non-manufacturing industry and more than accounted for the fall in this sector.

Table 1 **Net direct overseas investment and earnings**

£ million

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978 p
UK outward direct investment overseas excluding oil						
Net earnings	1 450	1 490	1 583	2 381	2 287	2 263
Net investment	1 621	1 575	1 094	2 108	1 790	1 915
Overseas inward direct investment in UK excluding oil and insurance						
Net earnings	698	609	615	1 023	1 400	1 433
Net investment	727	837	525	711	1 228	1 245

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Table 2 **Components of net outward direct investment and earnings overseas by UK companies other than oil companies 1966–1977**

£ million/(per cent)

	Net earnings					Net investment[1]								
	Overseas subsidiaries and associates			Branches overseas	Total net earnings	Overseas subsidiaries and associates						Branches overseas	Total net investment	
	UK companies share of overseas companies net profits[2]	Interest received by UK companies[3]	Total	Net profits[2]		UK companies share of overseas companies net profits[2]	Less dividends received by UK companies[3]	Unremitted profits	Net acquisition of overseas companies share and loan capital	Increase in amount due to UK parent companies on inter-company account	Total net investment in overseas companies[4]	Increase in indebtedness to UK parent companies on branch head office account		Unremitted profits as proportion of UK companies share of overseas companies net profits
1966	311.1	6.4	317.5	111.0	428.5	311.1	128.3	182.8	52.1	27.4	262.3	13.8	276.1	(58.8)
1967	329.5	5.3	334.8	103.1	437.9	329.5	140.0	189.5	46.5	18.8	254.8	26.1	280.9	(57.5)
1968	435.8	6.2	442.0	126.5	568.5	435.8	159.0	276.8	59.2	25.1	361.0	48.7	409.7	(63.5)
1969	498.7	10.6	509.3	140.5	649.9	498.7	177.4	321.2	103.8	64.4	489.4	59.5	548.9	(64.4)
1970	564.1	17.0	581.1	129.0	710.0	564.1	242.5	321.6	197.4	1.2	520.2	26.1	546.2	(57.7)
1971	586.6	17.8	604.4	113.6	718.0	586.6	257.4	329.2	228.9	107.8	665.9	9.5	675.5	(56.1)
1972	765.5	16.4	781.9	129.4	911.3	765.5	300.4	465.1	197.2	6.0	668.4	68.4	736.8	(60.7)
1973	1 254.0	32.6	1 286.6	163.1	1 449.7	1 254.0	414.2	839.8	562.7	185.0	1 587.5	33.4	1 620.8	(67.0)
1974	1 288.2	44.5	1 332.7	157.0	1 489.7	1 288.2	437.2	851.0	380.8	219.6	1 451.4	124.2	1 575.5	(66.1)
1975	1 343.2	41.7	1 384.9	198.2	1 583.1	1 343.2	470.2	873.0	233.7	−55.4	1 051.3	42.9	1 094.2	(65.0)
1976	2 009.3	48.6	2 057.9	323.0	2 380.9	2 009.3	555.5	1 453.8	459.9	121.8	2 035.5	72.8	2 108.3	(72.4)
1977	1 934.4	51.7	1 986.1	300.6	2 286.7	1 934.4	649.0	1 285.4	381.8	3.0	1 670.2	120.3	1 790.5	(66.4)

[1]A minus sign indicates net disinvestment (ie decrease in amount due from overseas country). [2]Profits are after deducting provisions for depreciation and overseas tax on profits and dividends. [3] Net of any overseas tax.

It is thought most of the borrowings from overseas subsidiaries are re-directed by the UK parent company to their affiliates in other parts of the world, and as such are included in the figures of direct investment twice, first as a disinvestment and second as an investment. More details on the financing of direct investment in 1977 will be given in the next issue of the 'Balance of Payments Pink Book' to be published later this year.

Another cause of the reduction in net outward investment was a fall of nearly £170 million in the unremitted profits of overseas subsidiaries and associates – due partly to lower profits and partly to higher dividends – and to the lower net acquisition of share and loan capital of overseas subsidiaries and associates (see table 2). Investment in overseas branches increased by nearly £50 million.

All the main areas contributed to the fall in net outward investment (see chart 1 and table 3). In western Europe net investment was nearly one-fifth lower than in 1976 largely due to an increase of nearly £100 million in borrowing from overseas subsidiaries and some disinvestment in property; there was a small increase in net investment in manufacturing (see table 5) due largely to a substantial increase in chemicals. EEC accounted for the bulk of the reduction in western Europe (see tables 4 and 6) due mainly to a large reduction in net investment in the Netherlands resulting from UK borrowing from Netherlands' subsidiaries.

Net outward investment in north America in 1977 was just under £30 million lower than

Table 3 Components of net outward direct investment and earnings by United Kingdom companies other than oil companies analysed by main area of investment

£ million/(per cent)

	Net earnings					Net investment [1]								
	Overseas subsidiaries and associates			Branches overseas	Total net earnings	Overseas subsidiaries and associates						Branches overseas	Total net investment	
	UK companies share of overseas companies net profits [2]	Interest received by UK companies [3]	Total	Net profits [2]		UK companies share of overseas companies net profits [2]	Less dividends received by UK companies [3]	Unremitted profits	Net acquisition of overseas companies share and loan capital	Increase in amount due to UK parent companies on inter-company account	Total net investment in overseas companies	Increase in indebtedness to UK parent companies on branch head office account		Unremitted profits as proportion of UK companies share of overseas companies net profits
Western Europe														
1973	336.7	12.3	349.0	16.3	365.3	336.7	136.7	200.0	344.1	67.3	611.4	12.2	623.6	(59.4)
1974	314.1	5.8	319.9	2.2	322.2	314.1	117.0	197.1	150.7	48.3	396.0	67.8	463.8	(62.4)
1975	299.3	8.5	307.8	15.0	322.7	299.3	140.2	159.1	118.0	−78.0	199.2	2.2	201.3	(53.2)
1976	548.6	1.9	550.5	41.9	592.3	548.6	156.7	391.9	185.7	76.1	653.7	28.1	681.8	(71.4)
1977	496.9	21.0	517.9	17.2	535.0	496.9	188.2	308.7	86.1	154.1	548.9	12.5	561.4	(62.1)
North America														
1973	266.5	6.9	273.4	25.8	299.2	266.5	74.1	192.4	175.5	128.7	496.6	14.0	510.7	(72.2)
1974	271.8	20.4	292.2	15.8	308.0	271.8	76.2	195.6	185.2	83.4	257.9	18.5	482.7	(72.0)
1975	285.6	12.2	297.8	15.0	312.8	285.6	72.3	213.3	62.5	17.1	293.0	14.7	307.7	(74.7)
1976	439.6	25.8	465.3	23.6	488.9	439.6	106.9	332.7	205.6	27.7	560.0	0.6	566.6	(75.7)
1977	441.4	20.0	461.4	47.6	508.9	441.4	121.8	319.6	245.2	−28.1	536.7	1.1	537.8	(72.4)
Other developed countries														
1973	395.1	10.3	405.4	22.3	427.7	395.1	99.9	295.1	−21.7	13.0	286.4	−2.5	283.8	(74.7)
1974	398.9	14.4	413.3	−4.8	408.6	398.9	113.3	285.6	31.4	69.1	386.2	23.2	409.4	(71.6)
1975	392.0	16.0	408.0	38.3	446.4	392.0	132.4	259.6	16.7	−13.6	262.6	25.8	288.4	(66.2)
1976	521.9	17.3	539.2	44.1	583.3	521.9	154.6	367.3	33.9	8.0	409.1	−0.6	408.5	(70.4)
1977	461.4	26.4	487.8	21.7	509.5	461.4	180.0	281.4	46.8	−35.9	292.3	19.5	311.8	(61.0)
Rest of the world														
1973	255.7	3.1	258.8	98.7	357.5	255.7	103.4	152.3	64.8	−24.0	193.1	9.7	202.7	(59.6)
1974	303.4	3.9	307.3	143.7	450.9	303.4	130.7	172.7	13.5	18.8	205.0	14.7	219.8	(56.9)
1975	366.3	5.0	371.3	129.9	501.2	366.3	125.3	241.0	36.4	19.0	296.5	0.3	296.8	(65.8)
1976	499.2	3.7	503.9	213.5	716.4	499.2	137.3	361.9	34.7	10.1	406.7	44.7	451.4	(72.5)
1977	534.7	−15.7	519.0	214.2	733.2	534.7	159.0	375.7	3.7	−87.0	292.3	87.2	379.5	(70.3)

[1] A minus sign indicates net disinvestment (ie decrease in amount due from overseas country). [2] Profits are after deducting provisions for depreciation and overseas tax on profits and dividends. [3] Net of any overseas tax.

Table 4 Components of net outward direct investment and earnings in EEC by UK companies other than oil companies

£ million/(per cent)

	Net earnings					Net investment [1]								
	Overseas subsidiaries and associates			Branches overseas	Total net earnings	Overseas subsidiaries and associates						Branches overseas	Total net investment	
	UK companies share of overseas companies net profits [2]	Interest received by UK companies [3]	Total	Net profits [2]		UK companies share of overseas companies net profits [2]	Less dividends received by UK companies [3]	Unremitted profits	Net acquisition of overseas companies share and loan capital	Increase in amount due to UK parent companies on inter-company account	Total net investment in overseas companies	Increase in indebtedness to UK parent companies on branch head office account		Unremitted profits as proportion of UK companies share of overseas companies net profits
EEC countries														
1973	258.2	6.4	264.6	11.2	275.8	258.2	114.0	144.2	313.0	50.9	508.1	11.0	519.0	(55.8)
1974	237.1	2.8	239.9	28.2	268.1	237.1	92.9	144.2	121.5	36.4	302.1	62.0	364.0	(60.8)
1975	226.2	0.3	226.5	13.6	240.0	226.2	115.1	111.1	74.9	−35.6	150.4	0.6	151.0	(49.1)
1976	407.7	−0.8	406.9	30.4	437.3	407.7	125.3	282.4	142.3	49.4	474.1	15.5	489.5	(69.3)
1977	352.2	17.7	369.9	5.1	375.0	352.2	141.9	210.3	48.6	109.7	368.6	5.1	373.7	(59.7)
Non-EEC countries														
1973	995.8	26.2	1 022.0	151.9	1 173.9	995.8	300.2	695.6	249.7	134.1	1 079.4	22.4	1 101.8	(69.9)
1974	1 051.1	41.7	1 092.8	128.8	1 221.6	1 051.1	344.3	706.8	259.3	183.2	1 149.3	62.2	1 211.5	(67.2)
1975	1 117.0	41.4	1 158.4	184.6	1 343.0	1 117.0	355.1	761.9	158.8	−19.8	900.9	42.3	943.2	(68.2)
1976	1 601.6	49.4	1 651.0	292.6	1 943.6	1 601.6	430.2	1 171.4	317.6	72.4	1 561.4	57.3	1 618.8	(73.1)
1977	1 582.2	34.0	1 616.2	295.5	1 911.7	1 582.2	507.1	1 075.1	333.2	−106.7	1 301.6	115.2	1 416.8	(67.9)
World														
1973	1 254.0	32.6	1 286.6	163.1	1 449.7	1 254.0	414.2	839.8	562.7	185.0	1 587.5	33.4	1 620.8	(67.0)
1974	1 288.2	44.5	1 332.7	157.0	1 489.7	1 288.2	437.2	851.0	380.8	219.6	1 451.4	124.2	1 575.5	(66.1)
1975	1 343.2	41.7	1 384.9	198.2	1 583.1	1 343.1	470.2	873.0	233.7	−55.4	1 051.3	42.9	1 094.2	(65.0)
1976	2 009.3	48.6	2 057.9	323.0	2 380.9	2 009.3	555.5	1 453.8	459.9	121.8	2 035.5	72.8	2 108.3	(72.4)
1977	1 934.4	51.7	1 986.1	300.6	2 286.7	1 934.4	649.0	1 285.4	381.8	3.0	1 670.2	120.3	1 790.5	(66.4)

[1] A minus sign indicates net disinvestment (ie decrease in amount due from overseas country). [2] Profits are after deducting provisions for depreciation and overseas tax on profits and dividends. [3] Net of any overseas tax.

in 1976, despite an increase of over £120 million in investment in non-manufacturing industry due mainly to higher investment in insurance. Net investment in manufacturing on the other hand fell by over £150 million, with a third of this reduction being accounted for by lower unremitted profits. Most of the main manufacturing industries had lower investment than in 1976. Within north America net investment in the United States increased by 16 per cent to pass its previous peak reached in 1974, while that in Canada was 40 per cent lower than the very high level reached in 1976.

The bulk of the reduction of nearly £100 million in net investment in other developed countries was in that to South Africa which fell from £201 million to £107 million. The investment in South Africa in 1977 consisted of unremitted profits and increases in trade credit less some £16 million from the net disposal

Table 5 Net outward direct investment and earnings [1] by UK companies other than oil companies in manufacturing and non-manufacturing in main areas

£ million

Industry	Western Europe		North America		Other developed countries		Rest of the world		World	
	Net investment	Net earnings	Net investment	Net earnings	Net investment	Net earnings	Net investment	Net earnings	Net investment	Net earnings
Total all industries										
1973	623.6	365.3	510.7	299.2	283.8	427.7	202.7	357.5	1 620.8	1 449.7
1974	463.8	322.2	482.7	308.0	409.4	408.6	219.8	450.9	1 575.5	1 489.7
1975	201.3	322.7	307.7	312.8	288.4	446.4	296.8	501.2	1 094.2	1 583.1
1976	681.8	592.3	566.6	488.9	408.5	583.3	451.4	716.4	2 108.3	2 380.9
1977	561.4	535.0	537.8	508.9	311.8	509.5	379.5	733.2	1 790.5	2 286.7
Total manufacturing industries										
1973	318.2	226.3	299.7	157.5	145.4	227.1	71.7	135.4	835.0	746.3
1974	212.8	188.8	269.5	189.6	227.6	218.6	115.1	153.1	825.1	750.2
1975	131.3	180.5	213.0	212.5	145.9	248.0	126.3	190.7	616.6	831.7
1976	337.1	314.7	416.3	312.7	279.0	356.1	176.6	262.7	1 209.0	1 246.3
1977	365.5	287.8	261.8	264.4	166.1	278.6	226.6	264.5	1 020.0	1 095.4
Total all non-manufacturing industries										
1973	305.4	139.0	211.0	141.7	138.4	200.6	131.0	222.1	785.8	703.3
1974	250.9	133.4	213.3	118.5	181.7	189.9	104.7	297.7	750.4	739.6
1975	70.0	142.2	94.6	100.3	142.5	198.5	170.5	310.5	477.7	751.4
1976	344.7	277.6	150.3	176.2	129.5	227.1	274.8	453.6	899.3	1 134.6
1977	195.8	247.2	276.0	244.5	145.8	230.9	152.9	468.6	770.5	1 191.3

[1] Net investment includes unremitted profits. Net earnings equal profits of overseas branches plus UK companies receipts of interest from and their share of profits of overseas subsidiaries and associates. Earnings are after deducting provisions for depreciation and overseas tax on profits, dividends and interest.

Table 6 Net outward direct investment [1] overseas by UK companies other than oil companies analysed by area and main country

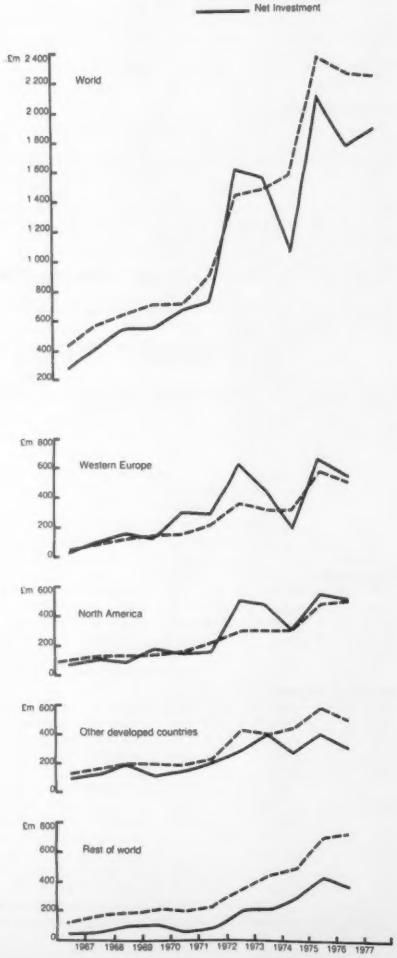
£ million

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Western Europe	623.6	463.8	201.3	681.8	561.4
EEC	519.0	364.0	151.0	489.5	373.7
Belgium and Luxembourg	64.2	49.0	31.6	84.9	62.8
Denmark	9.2	23.2	8.8	4.7	12.8
France	118.7	73.4	68.1	78.6	98.0
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	149.2	108.3	53.2	176.4	154.4
Irish Republic	46.2	49.5	24.2	40.0	59.4
Italy	26.5	25.4	−20.4	38.6	42.5
Netherlands	104.9	35.1	−14.4	66.3	−56.1
Efta	64.9	71.9	23.9	150.6	149.9
Austria	9.4	4.4	8.8	23.1	29.8
Finland	1.1	5.1	3.8	2.0	1.2
Norway	2.2	4.7	−4.8	−0.7	4.6
Portugal	6.5	11.1	0.5	1.3	8.4
Sweden	6.7	22.2	10.5	25.1	35.6
Switzerland	38.9	24.4	5.1	99.7	70.2
Other western Europe	39.7	27.9	26.4	41.6	37.7
Cyprus	−0.8	−3.1	1.5	..	0.5
Gibraltar	1.0	1.4	−1.0	2.3	−1.8
Greece	3.7	−0.3	2.0	0.9	3.6
Malta	0.1	−1.8	0.7	2.8	..
Spain	33.0	30.6	22.1	33.8	34.2
Turkey	1.0	1.1	0.7	2.8	0.9
Western Europe nsd	0.2	—	0.4	..	..
North America	510.7	482.7	307.7	566.6	537.8
Canada	133.4	84.5	106.5	215.0	129.3
USA	377.3	398.2	201.2	351.6	408.5
Other developed countries	283.8	409.4	288.4	408.5	311.8
Australia	179.2	211.1	119.7	178.5	172.9
Japan	7.8	17.1	3.1	0.7	17.0
New Zealand	10.7	3.7	12.9	28.7	15.4
South Africa	86.1	177.5	152.7	200.6	106.6
Rest of the world	202.7	219.8	296.8	451.4	379.5
Africa	63.6	86.6	133.6	135.4	225.0
Asia	59.8	80.2	43.8	133.8	180.9
of which					
Middle East	10.9	10.9	−3.1	23.8	18.9
Other Asia	48.8	69.3	48.9	110.0	162.0
Caribbean, central and southern America	59.7	32.7	107.0	182.4	−42.9
Other	19.6	20.3	12.2	−0.2	16.6
World	1 620.8	1 575.5	1 094.2	2 108.3	1 790.5
Commonwealth	467.8	425.3	425.0	729.4	473.4
Developing countries [2]	241.5	245.4	323.2	492.9	416.8
Oil exporting countries [3]	25.2	44.0	40.9	118.0	177.4

[1] Net investment includes unremitted profit. A minus sign indicates net disinvestment (ie decrease in amount due from overseas country). [2] As defined by OECD (but excluding Portugal). [3] Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Gulf states, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago. . .Not available. −nil or less than half the final digit shown.

CHART 1

UNITED KINGDOM DIRECT INVESTMENT OVERSEAS
(excluding oil)
AREA ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENT AND EARNINGS



of shares in South African subsidiaries and associates.

Net investment in the rest of the world fell by only some £70 million despite an increase of over £200 million in borrowing from overseas subsidiaries in the Caribbean. There was a small increase of £50 million in net investment in manufacturing and increases in most non-manufacturing industries.

Net earnings. Net earnings from outward direct investment by UK companies other than oil companies fell by 4 per cent in 1977 from the high level achieved in 1976 to just under £2,300 million, with a very small further fall of about 1 per cent in 1978 according to preliminary estimates (see chart 1 and table 1). The reduction in net earnings in 1977 was due mainly to lower profits from UK companies' manufacturing operations in the developed countries. With the exception of western Europe, profits from non-manufacturing operations in all the main areas increased again in 1977, and overall net earnings from north America and rest of the world continued to rise in 1977, but those from the other two areas fell (see chart 1 and tables 3 and 5).

Net earnings from western Europe were 10 per cent lower than in 1976, with most industries showing a reduction or little growth in profits, reflecting the lack of growth in indus-

CHART 2

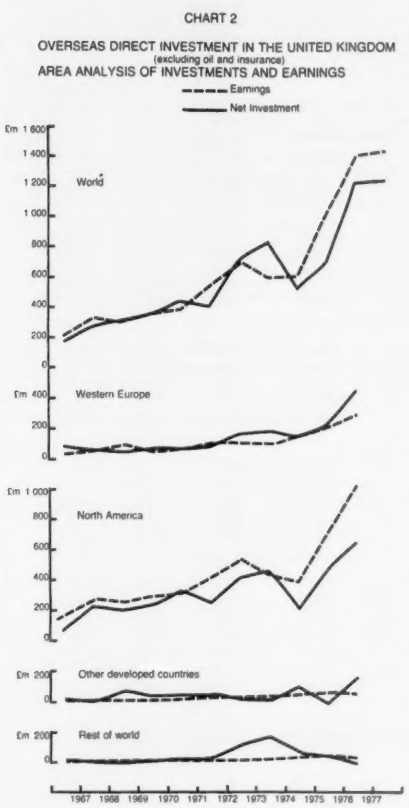


Table 7 Net earnings [1] from outward direct investment overseas by United Kingdom companies other than oil companies analysed by area and main country

£ million

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Western Europe	365.3	322.2	322.7	592.3	535.0
EEC	275.8	268.1	240.0	437.3	375.0
Belgium and Luxembourg	40.9	35.8	50.9	64.2	64.1
Denmark	5.5	6.8	10.1	12.4	11.6
France	42.0	45.5	34.9	48.7	30.7
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	79.8	77.3	84.2	146.5	122.0
Irish Republic	34.1	33.7	48.7	59.0	64.6
Italy	15.4	20.3	−3.9	29.3	29.2
Netherlands	58.1	48.7	15.1	77.1	52.7
Efta	65.8	37.1	69.7	121.5	133.1
Austria	5.3	5.4	15.8	23.7	27.3
Finland	1.8	3.8	3.1	4.1	3.4
Norway	2.6	2.5	1.5	3.3	3.8
Portugal	8.7	11.5	1.7	3.0	9.1
Sweden	9.9	14.5	7.9	13.8	14.3
Switzerland	37.5	−0.5	39.7	73.5	75.1
Other western Europe	23.6	17.0	13.0	33.5	27.0
Cyprus	2.5	0.9	−1.7	—	0.6
Gibraltar	1.4	—	1.6	1.5	..
Greece	0.9	1.0	1.2	2.4	..
Malta	0.7	1.1	0.5	2.4	3.2
Spain	16.9	11.6	10.5	25.6	18.5
Turkey	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.7	1.3
Western Europe nsd	0.1	..	—	—	—
North America	299.2	308.0	312.8	488.9	508.9
Canada	106.4	118.8	126.1	170.8	155.8
USA	192.8	189.2	186.7	318.2	353.2
Other developed countries	427.7	408.6	446.4	583.3	509.5
Australia	221.5	163.7	204.3	268.6	234.2
Japan	9.4	12.9	3.0	6.8	21.4
New Zealand	36.5	18.2	28.4	41.5	29.6
South Africa	160.2	213.8	210.6	266.3	224.4
Rest of the world	357.5	450.9	501.2	716.4	733.2
Africa	108.5	127.3	161.0	193.9	207.9
Asia	131.3	173.7	167.6	298.1	335.5
of which					
Middle East	12.6	21.7	37.4	66.3	70.2
Other Asia	118.7	152.0	130.3	231.8	265.3
Caribbean, central and southern America	88.2	125.5	132.5	180.5	145.1
Other	29.5	24.4	40.1	43.9	44.6
World	1 449.7	1 489.7	1 583.1	2 380.9	2 286.7
Commonwealth	614.1	615.8	689.0	974.7	912.7
Developing countries [2]	378.2	464.7	514.2	749.8	760.2
Oil exporting countries [3]	49.8	66.9	126.1	176.4	194.7

[1] Net earnings equal profit of overseas branches plus United Kingdom companies' receipts of interest and their share of profits of overseas subsidiaries and associates. Earnings are after deducting provisions for depreciation and overseas tax on dividends, profits and interest; a minus sign indicates net losses. [2] As defined by OECD (but excluding Portugal) [3] Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Gulf states, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago. .. Not available. — nil or less than half the final digit shown.

Table 8 Components of net inward direct investment and earnings in the UK in all industries other than oil and insurance, 1967-1977

£ million/(per cent)

	Net earnings					Net investment [1]								
	UK subsidiaries and associates			Branches in UK	Total net earnings	UK subsidiaries and associates						Branches in UK	Total net investment	
	Overseas parent companies share of UK companies net profits [2]	Interest paid to overseas parent companies [2]	Total	Net profits [2]		Overseas parent companies' share of UK companies net profits [2]	Less dividends paid to overseas parent companies [2]	Unremitted profits	Net acquisition of UK companies' share and loan capital	Increase in amount due to overseas parent companies on inter-company account	Total net investment in UK companies	Increase in indebtedness to overseas parent companies on branch head office account		Unremitted profits as proportion of overseas companies' share of UK companies' net profits
1967	189.7	6.7	196.4	19.8	216.2	189.7	92.8	96.9	55.8	2.6	155.3	14.9	170.2	(51.1)
1968	290.6	9.3	300.0	28.6	328.6	290.6	114.2	176.4	123.5	−27.2	272.7	1.4	274.1	(60.7)
1969	262.6	9.4	272.0	35.8	307.7	262.6	131.1	131.5	113.9	40.4	285.9	33.1	318.9	(50.1)
1970	310.8	12.6	323.5	37.0	360.4	310.8	131.4	179.4	123.9	29.9	333.2	20.8	353.9	(57.7)
1971	319.0	15.3	334.3	55.6	389.9	319.0	136.8	182.2	153.7	74.1	409.9	35.2	445.0	(57.1)
1972	462.8	19.3	482.1	69.9	552.0	462.8	161.7	301.2	147.4	−76.4	372.1	32.7	404.8	(65.1)
1973	594.0	27.2	621.1	77.1	698.2	594.0	255.4	338.6	342.9	50.1	731.5	−5.1	726.5	(57.0)
1974	464.2	39.9	504.1	105.3	609.4	464.2	221.4	242.9	469.9	141.0	853.9	−17.0	836.8	(52.3)
1975	417.1	47.8	464.9	149.9	614.7	417.1	177.5	239.6	221.3	37.1	497.9	26.7	524.7	(57.4)
1976	789.1	54.7	843.8	179.6	1 023.4	789.1	260.9	528.2	246.9	−14.9	760.2	−49.1	711.2	(66.9)
1977	1 143.1	70.8	1 213.9	186.0	1 399.9	1 143.1	324.1	819.0	180.7	71.4	1 071.0	156.7	1 227.8	(71.6)

[1] A minus sign indicates net disinvestment (ie decrease in amount due to overseas country). [2] Profits are after deducting provisions for depreciation and UK tax on profits and dividends. [3] Net of any UK withholding tax.

trial production through 1977. Virtually all the reduction in western Europe was due to lower earnings from the EEC where there were substantial falls in earnings in France, Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands. Only earnings in the Irish Republic showed any increase in the EEC (see table 7).

In north America most industries also showed a reduction or little growth in net earnings with the exception of insurance earnings which almost doubled to over £100 million. Mainly as a result of the higher insurance earnings total net earnings from north America in 1977 increased by 4 per cent; within this, those from the United States rose 11 per cent while those from Canada fell by 9 per cent.

Of the four other developed countries only net earnings from Japan, which tend to be volatile, showed an increase, and overall net earnings from the four other developed countries were 13 per cent lower than in 1976. Net earnings from the rest of the world increased slightly by 2 per cent in 1977 compared with 1976 with increases in Africa and Asia being partly offset by a decrease in earning from the Caribbean, central and southern America. Part of the decrease in the latter area was because the earnings are net after deducting interest payments made to overseas subsidiaries in the Caribbean by UK companies on loans received from their overseas subsidiaries. These interest payments also caused the total interest received from the rest of the world to be negative (see table 3).

Inward direct investment and earnings

Net investment. The net inward direct investment by overseas companies in the UK in all industries other than oil and insurance rose by

Table 9 Components of net inward direct investment and earnings in the UK in all industries other than oil and insurance by main area of investor

£ million/(per cent)

	Net earnings					Net investment [1]								
	UK subsidiaries and associates			Branches in UK	Total net earnings	UK subsidiaries and associates						Branches in UK	Total net investment	
	Overseas parent companies' share of UK companies' net profits [2]	Interest paid to overseas parent companies [3]	Total	Net profits [2]		Overseas parent companies' share of UK companies' net profits [2]	Less dividends paid to overseas parent companies [3]	Un-remitted profits	Net acquisition of UK companies' share and loan capital	Increase in amount due to overseas parent companies on inter-company account	Total net invest-ment in UK companies	Increase in indebt-edness to overseas parent companies on branch head office account		Unremitted profits as proportion of overseas companies' share of UK companies' net profits
Western Europe														
1973	95.7	13.0	108.7	6.3	115.0	95.7	58.6	37.1	113.0	16.5	166.5	5.8	172.3	(38.8)
1974	80.1	19.6	99.8	10.3	110.1	80.1	44.6	35.5	70.8	86.5	192.8	−1.3	191.6	(44.3)
1975	106.0	19.9	125.9	21.5	147.4	106.0	35.1	70.9	63.9	9.2	144.4	7.0	151.0	(69.0)
1976	159.7	19.6	179.3	28.0	207.3	159.7	46.7	113.0	87.3	3.8	204.1	10.8	215.0	(70.8)
1977	247.4	17.7	265.1	32.3	297.4	247.4	56.3	191.1	136.2	99.7	426.9	15.6	442.6	(77.2)
North America														
1973	369.7	12.7	482.4	53.0	535.3	369.7	192.0	277.7	102.3	34.3	414.3	1.9	416.2	(75.1)
1974	349.4	18.1	367.6	70.5	438.1	349.4	169.7	179.8	223.1	51.4	454.2	7.9	462.2	(51.5)
1975	268.2	19.5	287.7	95.1	382.7	268.2	131.0	137.2	43.8	29.7	210.7	1.8	212.5	(49.8)
1976	586.9	19.9	606.8	102.7	709.6	586.2	195.7	391.2	105.0	−33.4	462.6	3.0	465.6	(66.7)
1977	878.0	38.3	916.3	109.5	1 025.8	878.0	251.0	627.0	40.4	−27.9	639.5	− 2.6	636.9	(71.4)
Other developed countries														
1973	17.1	1.0	18.2	16.0	34.1	17.1	3.6	13.6	12.2	4.1	29.9	−13.1	16.8	(79.5)
1974	19.6	1.9	21.5	18.4	39.8	19.6	5.0	14.6	13.7	2.0	30.2	−20.3	9.9	(74.5)
1975	30.2	0.7	30.9	23.2	54.1	30.2	6.1	24.1	61.4	−8.7	76.8	22.1	98.9	(79.8)
1976	16.5	1.7	18.2	41.8	60.0	16.5	7.9	8.6	21.0	8.9	38.5	−49.2	−10.7	(52.1)
1977	16.5	2.0	18.5	34.4	52.9	16.5	6.3	10.2	−2.8	−3.0	4.4	153.1	157.5	(61.8)
Rest of the world														
1973	11.4	0.5	11.9	1.8	13.7	11.4	1.2	10.2	115.4	−4.9	120.8	0.3	121.1	(89.4)
1974	15.1	0.2	15.3	6.1	21.5	15.1	2.1	13.0	162.3	1.1	176.5	−3.3	173.2	(86.0)
1975	12.7	7.6	20.4	10.2	30.6	12.7	5.4	7.3	52.3	6.8	66.4	−4.2	62.2	(57.4)
1976	25.9	13.4	39.3	7.1	46.5	25.9	10.5	15.4	33.6	−1.0	48.0	−6.8	41.2	(59.5)
1977	1.2	12.8	14.0	9.8	23.8	1.2	10.5	−9.3	6.9	2.6	0.2	−9.4	−9.2	—[4]

[1] A minus sign indicates net disinvestment (i.e. decrease in amount due to overseas country). [2] Profits are after deducting provisions for depreciation and UK tax on profits and dividends. [3] Net of any UK withholding tax. [4] Proportion cannot be calculated because negative values rather than positive values are involved.

Table 10 Components of EEC net inward direct investment and earnings in UK in all industries other than oil and insurance

	Net earnings					Net investment [1]								
	UK subsidiaries and associates			Branches in UK	Total net earnings	UK subsidiaries and associates						Branches in UK	Total net investment	
	Overseas parent companies' share of UK companies' net profits [2]	Interest paid to overseas parent companies [3]	Total	Net profits [2]		Overseas parent companies' share of UK companies' net profits [2]	Less dividends paid to overseas parent companies [3]	Un-remitted profits	Net acquisition of UK companies' share and loan capital	Increase in amount due to overseas parent companies on inter-company account	Total net invest-ment in UK companies	Increase in indebt-edness to overseas parent companies on branch head office account		Unremitted profits as proportion of overseas companies' share of UK companies' net profits
EEC countries														
1973	54.6	4.3	58.9	2.1	61.0	54.6	34.5	20.1	87.5	−3.6	104.0	6.4	110.4	(36.8)
1974	49.3	6.2	55.5	8.0	63.4	49.3	19.0	30.3	46.9	−3.6	73.6	−1.4	72.2	(61.5)
1975	67.3	8.0	75.3	12.6	87.9	67.3	21.1	46.2	18.9	31.0	96.0	5.8	101.8	(68.6)
1976	92.6	7.3	99.9	23.5	123.4	92.6	30.4	62.2	78.6	9.5	150.3	8.3	158.7	(67.2)
1977	149.9	6.6	156.5	21.0	177.5	149.9	37.3	112.6	102.7	58.9	274.2	11.4	285.6	(75.1)
Non-EEC countries														
1973	539.4	22.9	562.3	74.9	637.2	539.4	220.9	318.5	255.4	53.7	627.6	−11.5	616.1	(59.0)
1974	414.9	33.7	448.6	97.3	546.0	414.9	202.3	212.6	423.0	144.6	780.2	−15.5	764.6	(51.2)
1975	349.8	39.8	389.6	137.3	526.8	349.8	156.4	193.4	202.4	6.1	401.9	20.9	422.9	(55.3)
1976	696.5	47.4	743.9	156.1	900.0	696.5	230.5	466.0	168.3	−24.4	609.9	−57.4	552.5	(66.9)
1977	993.2	64.2	1 057.4	165.0	1 222.4	993.2	286.8	706.4	78.0	12.5	796.9	145.3	942.2	(71.0)
World														
1973	594.0	27.2	621.2	77.1	698.2	594.0	255.4	338.6	342.9	50.1	731.5	−5.1	726.5	(57.0)
1974	464.2	39.9	504.1	105.3	609.4	464.2	221.4	242.9	469.9	141.0	853.9	−17.0	836.8	(52.3)
1975	417.1	47.8	464.9	149.9	614.7	417.1	177.5	239.6	221.3	37.1	497.9	26.7	524.7	(57.4)
1976	789.1	54.7	843.8	179.6	1 023.4	789.1	260.9	528.2	246.9	−14.9	760.2	−49.1	711.2	(66.9)
1977	1 143.1	70.8	1 213.9	186.0	1 399.9	1 143.1	324.1	819.0	180.7	71.4	1 071.0	156.7	1 227.8	(71.6)

[1] A minus sign indicates net disinvestment (ie decrease in amount due to overseas country). [2] Profits are after deducing provisions for depreciation and UK tax on profits and dividends. [3] Net of any UK withholding tax.

Table 11 Net inward direct investment and earnings [1] in the UK by main area of investor analysed by manufacturing and non-manufacturing other than oil and insurance

	Year	Western Europe		North America		Other developed countries		Rest of the world		World	
		Net investment	Net earnings	Net investment	Net earnings	Net investment	Net earnings	Net investment	Net earnings	Net investment	Net earnings
Total all industries	1973	172.3	115.0	416.2	535.3	16.8	34,1	121.1	13.7	726.5	698.2
	1974	191.6	110.1	462.2	438.1	9.9	39.8	173.2	21.5	836.8	609.4
	1975	151.0	147.4	212.5	382.7	98.9	54.1	62.2	30.6	524.7	614.7
	1976	215.0	207.3	465.6	709.6	−10.7	60.0	41.2	46.5	711.2	1 023.4
	1977	442.6	297.4	636.9	1 025.8	157.5	52.9	−9.2	23.8	1 227.8	1 399.9
Total all manufacturing industries	1973	65.0	76.0	371.8	426.5	15.7	14.4	0.1	1.3	452.6	518.2
	1974	91.2	52.1	357.3	317.1	15.3	7.5	4.2	4.5	468.0	381.3
	1975	78.6	58.0	189.4	232.2	−6.9	8.6	16.7	2.1	277.8	301.1
	1976	102.6	115.3	420.6	512.5	16.0	7.2	6.7	7.8	545.9	642.7
	1977	268.2	171.9	612.4	816.0	4.3	8.3	6.0	7.8	890.9	1 004.0
Total all non-manufacturing industries	1973	107.3	39.0	44.4	108.8	1.1	19.7	121.0	12.4	273.9	179.9
	1974	100.3	57.9	104.9	121.0	−5.4	32.3	169.0	16.9	368.8	228.2
	1975	72.4	89.4	23.1	150.5	105.8	45.4	45.5	28.4	246.9	312.7
	1976	112.4	92.1	45.0	197.1	−26.7	52.8	34.5	38.7	165.3	380.7
	1977	174.4	125.6	24.5	209.8	153.2	44.6	−15.2	16.0	336.8	395.9

[1] Net investment includes unremitted profits. Net earnings equals profits of UK branches of overseas companies, plus overseas companies receipts of interest from, and their share of profits of UK subsidiaries and associates. Earnings are after deducting provisions for depreciation and UK tax on profits and interest. A minus sign for investment indicates net disinvestment (ie decrease in amount due to overseas countries) and a minus sign for earnings indicates net losses.

over £500 million to nearly £1,230 million in 1977, just under 50 per cent higher than the previous peak in 1974. The preliminary estimates suggest there was virtually no further increase in net investment in 1978 over the level in 1977 (see table 1 and chart 2).

Over half the increase in net inward investment between 1976 and 1977 was accounted for by higher unremitted profits (see table 8). The remainder was due to increases in net amounts due to overseas parent companies on inter-company accounts from their UK subsidiary and associated companies and on branch-head office account from their UK branches. Virtually all the increase in inter-company account was from western European countries and that on branch-head office account was from two other developed countries, Japan and South Africa. Net acquisitions of UK companies' share and loan capital by overseas companies in 1977 was £50 million lower than in 1976, higher net acquisitions from western Europe being offset by lower acquisitions from the other three main areas. Overall the net inward direct investment flows into the UK from the developed countries increased in 1977 while those from the rest of the world showed a small net disinvestment (see chart 2 and table 9).

Net investment from western Europe more than doubled from its peak of £215 million in 1976 to £443 million in 1977, and accounted for over one-third of net inward investment compared with only just over one-fifth five years earlier. Just under three-quarters of this investment in 1977 was spread over manufacturing industries (see table 11), the first time since 1971 that well over half the net investment from western Europe has gone into UK manufacturing industry. Within western Europe net investment from the EEC rose 80 per cent above its 1976 peak (see table 10) and accounted for just under a quarter of UK net inward direct investment in 1977 compared with just under 10 per cent in 1972. France and the Netherlands accounted for the bulk of the EEC's increase (see table 12). Inward investment from European Free Trade Area (Efta) was over 160 per cent more in 1977 than in 1976, due to higher net investment from Sweden and Switzerland, but only one-third higher than the peak reached in 1974.

Net investment from north America increased by just over a third between 1976 and 1977 to around £640 million, and accounted for just over half of net inward investment in 1977 compared with 65 per cent in 1976 and 62 per cent in 1972. All the increase in 1977 was accounted for by investment in manufacturing industry, with increases in most of the main industries. Net investment from Canada was over £50 million in 1977 after two years of disinvestment, while that from the United States rose 18 per cent.

Net investment from other developed countries was around £160 million in 1977, virtually all of which was in non-manufacturing industry, compared with a disinvestment of £11 million in 1976. Japan and South Africa accounted for the turn-round with investment from Japan being a net inflow into the UK after three years of disinvestment.

Net earnings. Net earnings from inward direct investment in the UK other than in oil and insurance rose by just over one-third to a peak of £1,400 million in 1977, largely reflecting the increase in the value of UK company profits in 1977, but the preliminary estimates suggest there was only a very small further increase of around 2 per cent in earnings in 1978 (see chart 2 and table 1). All of the increase in net earnings in 1977 was accounted for by increases of just over 40 per cent in net earnings on investment from both western Europe and north America. Earnings on investment by other developed countries were slightly lower due to a drop in net earnings on investment by Japan. Earnings by the rest of the world in 1977 were only about half the level in 1976 (see tables 9 and 13).

Within western Europe net earnings on investment by both EEC and Efta also rose by just over 40 per cent in 1977 compared with 1976, while for north America that by Canada was nearly £100 million after being less than £10 million in the two previous years. Net earnings on investment from United States rose by a third between 1976 and 1977.

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Notes and definitions

Coverage and reliability of the inquiry. The estimates of net direct investment are derived from a voluntary statistical inquiry, the annual overseas transactions inquiry, but not all concerns approached responded. The estimates of total outward and inward net direct investment and earnings are thought to be fairly reliable, but this is not the position for the outward investment and earnings of individual countries. Although the estimates are shown to the nearest £0.1 million they cannot be taken as accurate to that degree.

Returns for outward direct investment were received from companies accounting for around two-thirds of outward direct investment in 1977. Of these, full returns giving investment and earnings by country were received from companies accounting for just over half of outward investment in 1977, and partial returns giving totals with little or no country detail were received from the remainder. Where partial returns were received the investment and earnings were allocated to country using published company accounts and any other available information. Also estimates of outward investment and earnings were constructed from company accounts and any other information for companies accounting for around another 30 per cent of outward direct investment in 1977. Company accounts often provide some information by area on earnings from overseas direct investment, but very little on outward investment. Thus estimates for individual countries have very wide margin of error and those for outward investment are generally less reliable than estimates for outward earnings.

For inward direct investment full returns were received from concerns accounting for around two-thirds of inward direct investment in 1977, and estimates were made for companies accounting for around one-sixth of inward investment in 1977 using published company accounts. These accounts provide a good basis for estimates of inward investment and earnings by country. However the degree of coverage varies between countries and the estimates for countries with small inward investment in the UK are probably less reliable than for those countries with large inward investments.

Definition of direct net investment. The concept of direct net investment used in this inquiry is that adopted by the International Monetary Fund (Balance of Payments Manual, fourth edition 1977). Direct investments refers to investment that adds to, deducts from, or acquires a lasting interest in an enterprise operating in an economy other than that of the investor, the investor's purpose being to have an effective voice in the management of the enterprise. Other investments in which the investor does not have an effective voice in the management of the enterprise are mainly portfolio investments and these are not covered in this article.

Outward direct net investment comprises investment net of disinvestment, by UK companies in their overseas branches, subsidiaries or associated companies, and inward direct net investment comprises investment net of disinvestment, by overseas companies in their branches, subsidiaries or associated companies in the UK. Transactions of government departments, the Commonwealth Development Corporation, oil companies and foreign-owned insurance companies are excluded. The figures of outward investment cover the transactions of a number of public corporations, namely the British Steel Corporation, British Airways, the Gas Council, and Cable and Wireless.

Direct investment consists of the parent company's share of the unremitted profits less losses, of the subsidiary or associated company, the cash acquisition net of sales of share and loan capital of subsidiaries and associated companies, changes in indebtedness on inter-company accounts and changes in branch-head office indebtedness. The inter-company account between the parent and its subsidiaries and associates and the branch-head office account cover amounts due to the parent from, net amounts due from the parent to, its related overseas concerns for short-term loans, trade credit and any other indebtedness not covered elsewhere. The unremitted profits of subsidiaries and associates are calculated as the sum of profits less dividends remitted and less losses. UK companies also borrow substantial funds abroad to finance their direct investment; such borrowings, whether in the form of Euro-dollar borrowing from UK banks or from banks, etc, abroad are not classified as direct investment and are not included in the tables in this article.

The earnings on direct investment consist of the profits of branches, the parent company's share of the profits of subsidiaries and associates, and interest payment by subsidiaries and associates to, net of payment from, the parent company on inter-company loans. Profits include unremitted profits as well as those remitted to the parent, and are net of losses and measured after deducting provisions made for depreciation of

fixed assets and after provisions for overseas tax on outward earnings and UK tax on inward earnings.

Companies supplied separate information for each country with which they had direct investment transactions. Where outward investment to a country was channelled through a holding company which was itself an overseas subsidiary of the UK company, the whole investment was allocated to the country of the intervening subsidiary. Inward investment in a UK company was similarly attributed to the country of the intervening subsidiary, rather than the country of the ultimate parent. To the extent that American and west European investment in the UK is channelled through Swiss, Panamanian or Canadian companies the underlying inflow on investment from these latter countries is overstated and the inflow from the originating country is understated.

Net direct investment is a financial concept., and is not the same as capital expenditure on fixed assets or the growth in a company's net assets. Direct investment covers only the money invested in a related concern by the parent company, and that concern will then decide how to use this money, whether on fixed assets, to increase debtors, repay borrowing, etc. Also a related concern may raise money locally without reference to its parent or associate. If a parent company sold a proportion of its share-holding in a foreign subsidiary to local interests this would be recorded as disinvestment; and if an affiliate raised local finance to repay short-term indebtedness to its parent company, that repayment would be recorded as disinvestment, although in neither case would there be any change in the capital employed, but only a redistribution between local and overseas interests.

Direct investment also includes a number of transactions which do not involve a transfer of cash. For example, if a UK company acquires (or is acquired by) a foreign company by means of an exchange of shares, the direct investment resulting from the transactions will be offset by an equivalent portfolio investment. Although there is no flow of funds from the point of view of private investment as a whole, a direct investment asset or liability is acquired, together with an equivalent portfolio liability or asset.

Valuation. Firms were asked to return values in sterling, as entered in their book of accounts, rounded to the nearest £1,000. Where conversion from an overseas currency was involved, they were asked to use the same rate of exchange as in their own accounts.

Period covered by returns. Firms were asked to make returns in respect of the calendar year or the nearest accounting year. In terms of expenditure, about 70 per cent of companies covered for outward investment and three-quarters of the concerns covered for inward investment had accounting years ending in December. Where quarterly information existed, returns for non-calendar years were adjusted to exclude large transactions occurring outside, and to include large transactions occurring within the calendar year.

Subsidiaries are as defined in section 154 of the Companies Act 1948, and in the main are companies in which the parent company holds more than half of the equity share capital.

Associates are incorporated companies which are not subsidiaries but companies in which the investing company participates in the management without having a controlling interest.

Branch means a permanent establishment as defined for UK corporation tax and double taxation relief purposes.

Table 12 Net inward direct investment [1] in the United Kingdom in all industries other than oil and insurance analysed by area and main country of investor

£ million

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Western Europe	172.3	191.6	151.0	215.0	442.6
EEC	110.4	72.2	101.8	158.7	285.6
Belgium and Luxembourg	25.1	5.1	13.3	11.6	28.2
Denmark	3.2	1.6	8.0	18.2	−0.5
France	27.1	23.7	36.8	78.2	127.9
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	16.7	33.3	11.4	33.2	36.4
Irish Republic	4.7	−6.8	32.6	37.5	24.6
Italy	16.8	5.5	1.1	10.9	12.9
Netherlands	16.8	10.0	−1.3	−31.0	56.2
Efta	56.6	114.6	46.0	58.2	153.6
Austria	0.3	0.3	7.7	—	3.9
Finland	7.4	19.1	−78.9	1.8	2.0
Norway	0.9	8.1	38.2	11.5	−1.5
Sweden	20.3	23.0	25.6	37.4	49.6
Switzerland	27.7	64.1	53.4	7.1	99.0
Other western Europe	5.3	4.8	3.2	−1.9	3.4
North America	416.2	462.2	212.5	465.6	636.9
Canada	29.5	63.1	−22.9	−30.0	52.9
USA	386.7	399.1	235.4	495.6	583.9
Other developed countries	16.8	9.9	98.9	−10.7	157.5
Australia	8.9	8.6	64.0	21.5	12.4
Japan	17.6	−22.1	−11.3	−13.8	92.1
New Zealand	1.9	3.1	0.8	3.5	0.3
South Africa	−11.5	20.3	45.5	−21.9	52.6
Rest of the world	121.1	173.2	62.2	41.2	−9.2
Asia	68.4	124.3	17.9	9.3	5.5
Caribbean, Central and South America	45.8	37.1	28.2	17.9	−7.9
Other	6.9	11.8	16.1	14.0	−6.8
World	726.5	836.8	524.7	711.2	1 227.8

[1] Net investment includes unremitted profits. A minus sign indicates net disinvestment (i.e. decrease in amount due to overseas countries). — nil or less than half the final digit shown.

Table 13 Net earnings' from inward direct investment in the United Kingdom in all industries other than oil and insurance analysed by area and main country of investors

£ million

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Western Europe	115.0	110.1	147.4	207.3	297.4
EEC	61.0	63.4	87.9	123.4	177.5
Belgium and Luxembourg	10.2	13.3	17.4	19.0	22.3
Denmark	0.2	0.3	14.5	12.7	10.6
France	15.9	20.9	29.7	31.9	55.2
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	8.6	6.7	10.6	24.9	32.4
Irish Republic	1.3	2.7	8.2	15.2	15.5
Italy	−0.8	1.9	3.6	10.9	1.3
Netherlands	25.6	17.6	3.8	8.7	40.2
Efta	53.8	45.9	59.6	83.4	118.0
Sweden	12.5	15.2	9.8	14.3	32.4
Switzerland	39.5	24.1	46.4	63.9	86.8
Efta nes	1.8	6.6	3.4	5.1	−1.2
Other western Europe	0.3	0.8	—	0.5	2.0
North America	535.3	438.1	382.7	709.6	1 025.8
Canada	23.8	43.2	1.0	6.1	96.4
United States	511.6	394.9	381.7	703.4	929.5
Other developed countries	34.1	39.8	54.1	60.0	52.9
Australia	10.7	11.3	21.7	14.1	17.4
Japan	10.5	13.8	21.0	35.8	22.3
New Zealand	0.6	0.6	..	0.9	1.8
South Africa	12.3	14.1	..	9.2	11.5
Rest of the world	13.7	21.5	30.6	46.5	23.8
Asia	7.5	10.5	13.4	23.1	19.6
Caribbean, Central and South America	3.9	6.3	8.8	18.0	−0.8
Other	2.3	4.7	8.4	5.4	5.0
World	698.2	609.4	614.7	1 023.4	1 399.9

[1] Net earnings equal profits of United Kingdom branches plus overseas investors' receipts of interest from, and their share of, the profits of United Kingdom subsidiaries and associates. Earnings are after deducting provisions for depreciation and UK tax on profits and interest. A minus sign indicates net losses. .. not available. — nil or less than half the final digit shown.

Official what's what

Second edition of the Guide to Official Statistics

The second edition of 'the official what's what', has been produced by the Central Statistical Office. That was one name given to the Guide to Official Statistics when it first appeared in 1976. Now the second edition (HMSO, £8.25) offers a complete update. There is detailed information on 2500 statistical sources covering nearly 800 topics. All official and important non-official publications offering statistics relevant to these subjects are listed in over 400 pages.

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Food survey: less spent on fresh fruit and vegetables

Average expenditure on food bought for consumption in the home (excluding sweets and soft drinks) during the fourth quarter of 1978 was £5.76 per person per week; this was 5p (0.8 per cent) less than the high average recorded for the previous quarter. The decrease was due mainly to lower expenditure on fresh fruit and vegetables.

Compared with the fourth quarter of 1977, average expenditure rose by 8.6 per cent. In the same period the survey index of food prices paid by housewives rose by 9.8 per cent, implying therefore a fall of 1.1 per cent in the real value of food purchases per head. This fall was mainly due to a lower level of purchases of beef which can be accounted for by a decrease in the amount bought for storage in deep-feezers.

The recorded average consumption of liquid milk in the fourth quarter was little different from that of the previous quarter, despite the increase in price from 12½p to 13½p per pint on 5 November. Purchases of both cheese and butter showed little change, while purchases of margarine not only rose seasonally but were also slightly larger than in the corresponding period of the previous year. The rise in the latter over the year was again entirely in respect of soft margarine. There were no significant changes in purchases or in consumption of eggs, compared with the previous quarter and with the fourth quarter of 1977, although in real terms their average price was 11 per cent lower than a year earlier. Purchases of sugar and of preserves both declined slightly.

The estimates of consumption presented in table 1 have, as usual, been obtained by measuring quantities purchased plus free supplies. Some of these estimates, particularly those for carcase meat, are subject to a large amount of sampling variation because of bulk-buying by households owning a deep-freezer. Because of this, the survey technique now also measures usage from deep-freezers, thus enabling more accurate estimates of actual consumption (as opposed to purchases) to be derived. When some run-down in freezer stocks is taken into account, the estimate of average consumption of beef in the fourth quarter of 1978 becomes 8.81 oz (instead of the 8.65 oz recorded as purchased in table 1). This represents an increase of nearly 14 per cent over the estimated consumption of 7.75 oz (instead of 7.97 oz purchases) for the previous quarter, and an increase of 2 per cent over the estimated consumption of 8.64 oz (instead of 10.67 oz purchases) for the fourth quarter of 1977.

The estimate of consumption of lamb (3.80 oz) was not affected by the adjustment since no change was recorded in the level of freezer stocks; the estimate implies an increase of about 1½ per cent over the adjusted estimate of 3.74 oz in the previous quarter, but a decrease of over 6 per cent compared with the adjusted estimate of 4.05 oz in the fourth quarter of 1977. Pork consumption at 3.42 oz per person per week in the fourth quarter was about 4 per cent above the level of the previous quarter and of the fourth quarter of 1977.

There was very little change in overall consumption of other meat and meat products, small increases in purchases of beef sausages and some convenience meat products (including frozen) being more than fully offset by decreases in purchases of offals, bacon and ham, and poultry.

Average consumption of fish was greater than a year earlier, largely due to increased consumption of filleted fresh white fish and increased purchases of cooked fish. Purchases of canned salmon showed some slight recovery in the fourth quarter from the low level of 0.04 oz to which they had fallen in September after some supplies had been temporarily withdrawn from the market; nevertheless, the average of 0.07 oz for the fourth quarter was only half the level recorded a year earlier. Purchases of other canned or bottled fish were also lower at 0.27 oz compared with 0.38 oz a year before.

The average price paid by housewives for main-crop potatoes in the fourth quarter of 1978 was 3.42 per lb, compared with 3.55p a year yearlier, and purchases averaged 43.01 oz per person per week compared with 41.73 oz. Free supplies, however, averaged only 4.88 oz compared with the high fourth-quarter level of 6.86 oz recorded a year earlier, when garden

Table 1 Estimates of average household food consumption [1]

oz per person per week [2]

	Year 1977	Year 1978	4th qtr 1977	3rd qtr 1978	4th qtr 1978
Liquid milk (pints)	4.54	4.44	4.52	4.40	4.48
Other milk (eq. pints)	0.35	0.35	0.31	0.36	0.37
Cheese	3.80	3.72	3.81	3.82	3.80
Butter	4.70	4.55	5.02	4.53	4.54
Margarine	3.48	3.54	3.80	3.40	3.87
Lard and compound cooking fat	1.88	1.91	2.05	1.52	2.02
Eggs: purchases (number)	3.79	3.82	3.77	3.81	3.77
consumption (number)	4.00	3.96	3.92	3.96	3.89
Preserves	2.36	2.15	2.38	2.10	2.05
Sugar	12.09	11.89	13.34	12.89	12.65
Beef and veal	8.25	8.27	10.67	7.97	8.65
Mutton and lamb	3.97	3.92	3.46	4.45	3.80
Pork	3.32	3.34	3.50	3.33	3.47
Bacon and ham, uncooked	4.34	4.31	4.60	4.48	4.37
Bacon and ham, cooked (including canned)	1.03	1.08	1.11	1.25	1.05
Poultry and cooked chicken	6.17	6.15	6.68	6.34	6.32
Other cooked meat (not canned)	0.47	0.49	0.44	0.52	0.46
Other canned meat	2.08	2.17	2.08	2.38	1.94
Offals	1.21	1.11	1.25	1.07	1.07
Sausages, uncooked	3.47	3.54	3.66	3.60	3.75
Other meat products:					
meat pies and sausage rolls (ready-to-eat	0.76	0.76	0.82	0.90	0.71
all others (not frozen)	2.27	2.52	2.31	2.58	2.56
Fish, fresh and processed	2.41	2.56	2.41	2.59	2.76
Canned fish	0.56	0.51	0.53	0.53	0.34
Fish and fish products, frozen	1.20	1.18	1.21	1.24	1.15
Fresh green vegetables	12.15	13.45	14.90	16.68	13.82
Tomatoes, fresh	3.75	3.67	3.53	5.74	3.26
Other fresh vegetables	10.98	12.13	14.29	11.85	13.23
Frozen vegetables	3.63	3.59	2.71	3.36	3.43
Canned tomatoes	1.17	1.16	1.11	1.03	0.93
Canned peas	2.54	2.46	2.44	2.45	2.36
Canned beans	3.97	3.92	4.05	3.92	3.93
Potatoes (excluding processed):					
purchases	35.93	40.52	41.73	37.91	43.01
consumption	40.79	44.05	48.59	43.94	47.90
Citrus fruit	4.90	4.77	4.26	3.26	3.58
Bananas	2.96	2.96	2.81	3.17	3.02
Apples	6.46	7.02	7.05	6.67	8.50
All other fresh fruit	3.20	3.41	2.07	7.62	2.11
Canned fruit	3.19	3.05	3.32	2.94	3.09
Dried fruit, nuts and fruit and nut products	1.33	1.32	2.33	1.06	2.29
Flour	6.46	5.96	6.88	5.47	6.19
White bread	25.80	25.06	26.28	25.20	23.94
Brown, wholewheat and wholemeal bread	3.70	3.84	3.53	4.12	4.09
Other bread	3.22	3.24	2.85	3.34	3.07
Buns, scones and teacakes	1.07	1.10	1.20	1.00	1.08
Cakes and pastries	2.80	2.67	2.87	2.78	2.77
Chocolate biscuits	0.94	1.06	0.99	1.01	1.19
Other biscuits	4.68	4.39	4.71	4.49	4.54
Breakfast cereals	3.30	3.45	3.44	3.59	3.41
Oatmeal and oat products	0.51	0.47	0.58	0.33	0.55
Canned milk puddings	1.36	1.20	1.36	1.13	1.11
Tea	2.07	1.99	2.03	2.05	2.12
Instant coffee	0.36	0.44	0.31	0.47	0.48
Canned soups	2.80	2.76	3.16	2.09	3.20
Pickles and sauces	1.66	1.74	1.95	1.56	1.90

[1] Purchase plus 'free' supplies. [2] Except where otherwise stated. Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Table 2 Estimates of average household food expenditure

Pence per person per week

	Year 1977	Year 1978	4th qtr 1977	3rd qtr 1978	4th qtr 1978
Total household food expenditure	£5.10	£5.61	£5.31	£5.81	£5.76
Liquid milk	48.46	54.47	49.50	54.21	55.87
Other milk	4.67	5.63	4.56	5.90	5.87
Cheese	15.10	16.68	16.05	17.15	17.82
Butter	14.36	15.79	15.11	16.50	17.32
Margarine	6.65	7.01	7.56	6.79	7.82
Lard and compound cooking fat	2.73	2.85	3.10	2.88	2.94
Eggs	15.36	15.43	15.45	14.63	14.88
Preserves	3.99	4.12	4.25	4.11	4.11
Sugar	9.11	9.62	10.33	10.46	10.84
Beef and veal	43.08	49.45	53.22	48.93	53.50
Mutton and lamb	17.02	19.51	15.48	22.90	20.33
Pork	13.94	16.55	15.42	16.85	18.23
Bacon and ham, uncooked	20.51	22.23	22.15	23.43	23.71
Bacon and ham, cooked (including canned)	6.60	7.62	7.12	9.04	7.52
Poultry and cooked chicken	17.77	19.35	19.81	20.64	20.42
Other cooked meat (not canned)	2.63	3.22	2.61	3.51	3.17
Other canned meat	7.70	8.22	7.76	8.99	7.66
Offals	3.71	3.83	3.70	3.77	4.02
Sausages, uncooked	9.53	10.75	10.40	11.05	11.72
Other meat products:					
meat pies and sausage rolls (ready-to-eat)	2.40	2.70	2.62	3.29	2.69
all others (not frozen)	8.75	10.92	9.10	11.74	11.32
Fish, fresh and processed	11.72	14.39	12.41	14.57	15.56
Canned fish	2.95	3.09	3.11	3.07	2.07
Fish and fish products, frozen	5.65	6.27	6.02	6.58	6.23
Fresh green vegetables	7.42	8.05	6.27	8.67	7.42
Tomatoes, fresh	6.02	5.67	3.66	7.42	4.25
Other fresh vegetables	8.88	9.31	7.80	9.43	8.96
Frozen vegetables	6.64	5.93	4.65	5.78	5.91
Canned tomatoes	1.26	1.27	1.16	1.17	1.02
Canned peas	2.35	2.43	2.28	2.41	2.38
Canned beans	3.71	3.90	3.79	3.95	3.92
Potatoes (excluding processed)	16.39	12.11	9.25	10.83	9.19
Citrus fruit	4.90	5.20	5.08	3.85	4.54
Bananas	3.50	3.84	3.44	4.23	3.85
Apples	7.28	7.63	7.90	7.83	5.64
All other fresh fruit	3.61	4.22	2.36	10.03	2.52
Canned fruit	5.11	5.47	5.53	5.32	5.59
Dried fruit, nuts and fruit and nut products	4.11	4.30	7.43	3.56	7.17
Flour	3.48	3.67	4.06	3.44	3.89
White bread	20.69	23.67	22.30	24.27	24.23
Brown, wholewheat and wholemeal bread	3.77	4.54	3.78	4.98	4.92
Other bread	5.10	5.73	4.86	6.00	5.76
Buns, scones and teacakes	2.30	2.64	2.48	2.46	2.68
Cakes and pastries	8.86	9.66	9.68	9.91	10.37
Chocolate biscuits	3.99	5.07	4.41	4.74	5.83
Other biscuits	9.99	10.56	10.79	10.81	11.38
Breakfast cereals	6.64	7.43	6.98	7.76	7.50
Oatmeal and oat products	0.64	0.65	0.76	0.44	0.78
Canned milk puddings	1.19	1.16	1.23	1.13	1.12
Tea	12.64	12.46	14.34	12.90	12.21
Instant coffee	8.28	10.41	8.50	10.61	10.43
Canned soups	3.13	3.30	3.70	2.56	4.00
Pickles and sauces	3.19	3.64	3.79	3.28	4.19
Other foods	40.83	46.59	41.54	49.94	48.49

and allotment cultivation had apparently been stimulated following the poor commercial crops of 1975 and 1976. The small overall fall in consumption compared with that in the fourth quarter of 1977 was offset by increased purchases of potato products, particularly frozen chips. Similarly, a fall in consumption of fresh green vegetables compared with the corresponding period of 1977 was entirely due to smaller supplies from households' gardens and allotments, and was to some extent offset by increased purchases of frozen vegetables (though not of canned vegetables). Both purchases and free supplies of other fresh vegetables were rather lower than a year earlier.

Consumption of fresh fruit averaged 17.21 oz per person per week, compared with 16.20 oz a year previously. The increase was due to greater free supplies of apples from gardens and allotments. A fall in purchases of citrus fruit was offset mainly by increased purchases of bananas, and a small decrease in purchases of canned fruit by increased purchases of fruit juices.

Purchases of bread fell to the lowest level yet recorded of 31.10 oz per person per week, but this would be partly due to the effects of industrial disputes. The downward trend in purchases of cakes and pastries continued.

The nutritional value of these household food purchases is shown in table 3, and was higher than in the third quarter except for the normal seasonal decline in vitamin C. The smaller purchases of bread reduced its contribution to the average intakes of energy, protein, minerals and B-vitamins, but these losses were made good by the increased consumption of other dietary staples, especially of potatoes and beef. The nutritional value of diets in households with four or more children was also higher in 1978 than in 1977.

Inquiries: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, National Food Survey Branch, Tolcarne Drive, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2DT, tel. 01-868 7161, ext. 44.

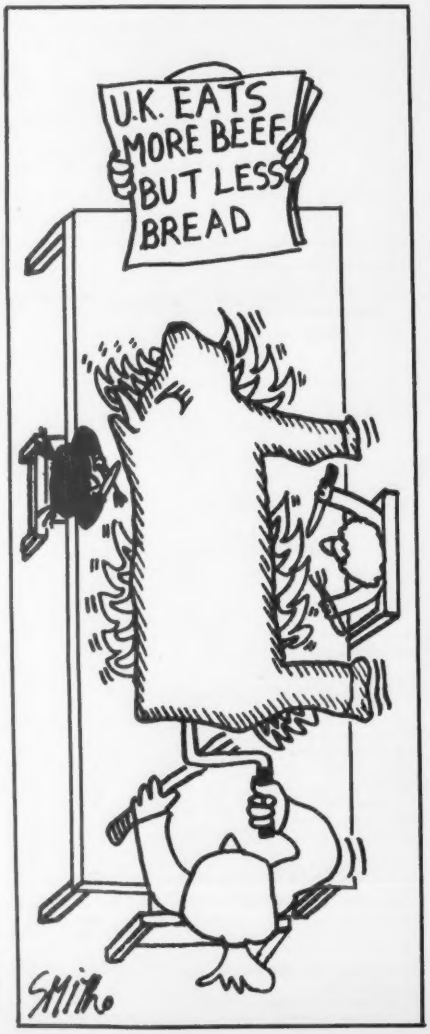

Table 3 Nutritional value of household food as a percentage of recommended intakes [1] [2]

	National averages					Households with four or more children		
	Year 1977	Year 1978	4th qtr 1977	3rd qtr 1978	4th qtr 1978	Year 1977	Year 1978	Averages of the October-December quarters in the three most recent years
Energy	94	94	99	95	98	85	86	87
Protein	120	121	124	122	123	101	104	102
Calcium	183	181	185	181	184	151	150	155
Iron	98	100	102	103	102	82	86	84
Thiamin	129	125	133	127	127	120	121	120
Riboflavin	128	138	131	138	140	120	134	127
Nicotinic acid equivalent	185	188	194	191	193	166	177	169
Vitamin C	178	188	173	230	177	145	161	141
Vitamin A (retinol equivalent)	210	212	230	203	216	181	181	185
Vitamin D [3]	83	83	88	83	86	70	72	66

[1] Department of Health and Social Security. 'Recommended intakes of nutrients for the United Kingdom'. Reports on public health and medical subjects, no. 120, HMSO, 1969. [2] All values make allowance for wastage in the home of 10 per cent of the edible portion of food bought, and for expected losses of nutrients during cooking. [3] The survey does not evaluate welfare and pharmaceutical sources of this (or any other) vitamin. Furthermore, most adults need no dietary vitamin D, since they obtain all they need from the action of sunlight on the skin.

Contact points

Central Statistical Office
Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ
01-233 followed by extension
National income and expenditure, balance of payments, index of industrial production, financial statistics, input/output statistics, development of social statistics, regional statistics ext **6135/6193**
Prices indices for current cost accounting ext **7718/7661**
Survey Control Unit ext **7341**
Macro-Economic Databank ext **5401**

Industry, trade, prices

Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection

Business Statistics Office
Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG

Newport 56111
General inquiries ext **2973**

Production statistics:
Annual production statistics, manufacturing ext **2455**
construction ext **2435**
Quarterly and monthly production inquiries exts **2337, 2322**
Purchases inquiry ext **2269**
Classified list of businesses ext **2556**
Distribution statistics:
Annual retail inquiry ext **2070**
Annual inquiry into distributive and service trades, capital expenditure and stocks ext **2113**
Wholesaling and dealing inquiry ext **2708**
Minerals raised annual inquiry ext **2043**

Other offices
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
01-215 followed by extension
Wholesale price indices exts **3544, 3073**
Capital expenditure and stocks, and investment intentions of private industry:
Manufacturing ext 5215
Distributive and service trades ext **3345**

Retail trades turnover ext **3705**
Motor and catering trades turnover ext **3177**
Hire-purchase and other instalment credit ext **3162**

Companies:
Acquisitions and mergers, liquidity, insolvencies ext **5538**
Analysis of accounts exts **3132/5705**

Insurance, private sector pensions funds ext **3162**

Overseas trade:
Visible ext **5703**
Invisible ext 3135

Overseas direct investment and earnings ext **3135**

Economic indicators:
Home ext **3453**
Industrial countries ext **3442**

Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN **01-211** followed by extension

Scientifically qualified manpower ext **7152**
R&D expenditure by industry ext **5156**
Distribution industry ext **7077**

Cromwell House, Dean Stanley Street, London SW1P 3HY **01-212** followed by extension

Shipping ext **6960**
Tourism ext **5555**

Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU **01-211** followed by extension
Industrial development certificates ext **6440**
Statistical service for the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection ext **5677**

Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG **01-212** followed by extension
Aerospace ext **5986**
Chemicals ext **6937**
Engineering ext **6044**
Manufacturing industries – production, sales, orders:
Motor vehicles ext **0788**
Non-ferrous metals ext **6532**
Steel and shipbuilding ext **5544**
Textiles, clothing, footwear, leather, man-made fibres ext **6210**

Other industries ext **6331**

Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU **01-248 5757** Telex: 886143 DTI Export Ldn
Foreign and commonwealth statistics ext **337**

Statistics and Market Intelligence Library
exts **368/369**
Up-to-date and comprehensive trade statistics for all countries, and general statistical publications from all over the world. Overseas directories are also held. Reading room and copying facilities are available.

Agriculture

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HH **01-839 7711**
General inquiries exts **7000, 7024**
National expenditure estimates on food ext **477**
Food consumption estimates exts **388, 479**
Agricultural incomes, etc exts **292, 296, 297, 565**
Agricultural and food statistics for overseas countries ext **544**
Market prices (livestock, dairy products, etc) ext **7058**

Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE **01-216** followed by extension
Commodity production statistics ext **6418**
Market prices (horticulture) ext **6711**
Fisheries ext **6227**

49-53 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2NH **01-233** followed by extension
Agricultural rents, land prices, etc ext **5454**

Government Buildings, Tolcarne Drive, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2DT **01-868 7161**
Agricultural prices indices ext **35**
Wholesale price index (manufactured food and soft drinks) ext **108**
Corn prices in England and Wales ext **150**
National food survey: household food consumption and expenditure ext **43**

Government Buildings, Epsom Road, Guildford GU1 2LD **Guildford 68121**
Agricultural censuses and surveys ext **577**

Civil Service

Civil Service Department
Whitehall, London SW1A 2AZ **01-273 3521**
Statistics of Civil Service employment, recruitment, etc

Customs and Excise

Customs and Excise
King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3 7HE **01-626 1515**
Statistics related to all indirect taxes administered by the department
other than VAT and car tax ext **2693**
VAT and car tax ext **2148**
Bill of Entry Service, Statistical Office, Portcullis House, 27 Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea SS2 6AL **Southend 49421**
United Kingdom external trade statistics ext **310**

Defence

Statistics Secretariat
Northumberland House, London WC2N 5BP **01-218 4120**
Statistics of manpower, including strength and medical statistics relating to Armed Services

Education, science

Department of Education and Science
Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London SE1 7PH **01-928 9222**
Statistics of schools, school leavers, teachers, further and higher education, educational finance and awards. International comparisons and library statistics exts **2776, 2356**

Employment

Department of Employment
Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts WD1 1PJ **Watford 28500**
Employment, unemployment, vacancies ext **403**
Earnings, wage rates, hours of work ext **319**
New earnings survey ext **500**
Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes ext **673**
Employers' labour costs ext **526**
Index of retail prices ext **630**

26 King Street, London SW1Y 6RB **01-214 8627**
Family expenditure survey

Energy

Department of Energy
Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ **01-211** followed by extension
Fuel and energy ext **4292**
Energy models ext **4550**

Environment, transport

Departments of the Environment and Transport
St Christopher House, Southwark Street, London SE1 0TE **01-928 7999**
Roads ext **3185**
Road traffic ext **2629**

2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EP **01-212** followed by extension
Passenger traffic, road vehicles ext **8987**
Public road passenger transport ext **8330**
Inland freight transport, railways ext **7513**
Road accidents ext **7452**
Traffic of seaports ext **8323**
Road goods transport ext **8297**
Building materials exts **7147, 8411**
Construction industries ext **7142**
Planning and land use ext **4113**
Local government financial statistics ext **4627**
Population projections exts **8558, 8563**
Household projections exts **8555, 8557**
Housing ext **8551**

Health, social security

Department of Health and Social Security
Central Office, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE98 1YX 0632-857111
Social security statistics ext **449**

42-46 Weston Street, London SE1 3QW **01-407 4411**
Personal social services ext **230**
Health services ext **231**

Health and Safety Executive
Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, London W2 4TF **01-229 3456**
Health and safety statistics ext **442**

Home Office

Home Office
Tolworth Tower, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DS **01-399 5191**
Administration of justice; criminal and penal matters; immigration; misuse of drugs; fire; betting and liquor licensing; community relations; experiments on living animals; and elections ext **298**

Judicial

Lord Chancellor's Office
67 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RG **01-212 7960**
Judical statistics relating to the Judical Committee of the Privy Council, the House of Lords, the Supreme Court of Judicature, the Crown Court, county courts and other civil courts.

Overseas aid

Ministry of Overseas Development
Eland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DH **01-834 2377**
British aid to developing countries ext **265**

Population

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
St Catherine's House, Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP **01-242 0262**
Population and vital statistics (England and Wales):
National and local estimates of population ext **2249**
Regional demography and sub-national population projections ext **2183**
Overseas migration ext **2182**
National population projections, international data, marriages and general inquiries ext **2169**
Deaths, abortions, infectious diseases ext **2229**
Births ext **2162**
Divorces ext **2165**

Social surveys ext **2292**
Census of population, general inquiries exts **2009/2013**

Census Division, Customer Services Section, Titchfield, Hampshire **Titchfield 42511**
Supply of special and unpublished statistics exts **231, 296**

The OPCS Reference Library, St Catherine's House **01-242 0262**
Copies of all OPCS publications and historic references of the General Register Office, together with national and international publications on OPCS subjects. Open to the public Monday to Friday, 09.00 to 16.00 hours exts **2235/2237**

Government Actuary's Department
Steel House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9LS **01-273** followed by extension number

Surveys of occupational pension schemes ext **5200**
National population projections ext **3206** (alternative contact point to OPCS)
Moving early 1979 to 22 Kingsway, London WC2B 6LE **01-242 6828.**

Taxation

Board of Inland Revenue
Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LB **01-438 6649**
Statistics of direct taxes, corporate income, surveys of personal incomes, personal wealth and conveyancing.

Treasury

HM Treasury
Parliament Street, London SW1P 3AG **01-233 5576**
Public expenditure

Scotland

Scottish Office
New St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3TD **031-556 8400**
(postal codes as at subject headings)
General inquiries ext **4045**
Manpower/employment (Scottish Office interest) (EH1 3SX) ext **4389**
Scottish economic matters (general) (EH1 3TA) ext **4534**
Crime and related matters (EH1 3TF) ext **5115**
Planning and local government matters (EH1 3SZ) ext **5193**

43 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh EH1 1DN **031-556 9233**
Education ext **283**
Social work ext **229**

Chesser House, 500 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh EH11 3AW **031-443 4020**
Agriculture ext **2003**
Fisheries ext **2045**

83 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HH **031-226 3781**
Housing ext **233**

Scottish Health Service, Common Services Agency, Information Services Division, Trinity Park House, South Trinity Road, Edinburgh EH5 3SQ **031-552 6255**
Health statistics ext **2458**

Wales

Welsh Office (Economic Services Division)
31 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF1 9UJ **Cardiff 42661**
Demographic ext **27**
Economic ext **26**
Education ext **50**
Financial ext **113**
Health ext **45**
Housing ext **24**
Personal social services ext **27**

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Departments
Stormont, Belfast BT4 3SW **Belfast 63210**
Economic ext **2432**
Social ext **2432**
Prices ext **2432**
Housing ext **2079**

Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3SF **Belfast 650111**
Agriculture ext **687**

Netherleigh House, Massey Avenue, Belfast BT4 2JS **Belfast 63244**
Manpower ext **425**

21 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BZ **Belfast 30555**
Industrial (general) ext **113**

Using government statistics

Many firms make use of government statistics together with information from other sources to help both in broad strategic planning and in day-to-day decision taking. The Government Statistical Service has prepared a free booklet *Profit from Facts* which illustrates this with a number of actual case histories. The following checklist indicates some of the main areas of use which might be applicable to your firm's needs.

Marketing

☐ Look at your industry's *Business Monitor, Ministry of Agriculture Information Notice* or *Housing and Construction Statistics* to compare your own performance against general sales trends and to watch for opportunities for diversification.

☐ From a variety of sources you can check the number of potential customers in a given sector and compare characteristics with your own customers to highlight possible weaknesses in marketing strategy.

☐ If you are in consumer lines, trends in expenditure are available from the *National Food Survey* and the *Family Expenditure Survey.*

☐ For test marketing, the *Census of Population* and *Census of Distribution* can provide very localised data on numbers of consumers and retail outlets.

☐ Many statistics are available on a regional or area basis and can assist in determining quotas for area salesmen.

☐ Watch the foreign competition through the import figures available from the Customs and Excise Bill of Entry Service.

Contracts

Many contracts contain escalation clauses. Consult the Property Services Agency's *Monthly Bulletin of Construction Indices*, or speak to the Department of Industry and the Department of Employment respectively to find the most appropriate materials and labour indices to use.

Accounts

Price Index Numbers for Current Cost Accounting provides price indices for use in the new system of company accounting. Recommended by the Sandilands Committee and in the interim recommendation (the 'Hyde Guidelines') issued in November 1977 by the Accounting Standards Committee.

Buying

Watch the sales trends of your materials inputs through *Business Monitors*, etc, and their prices with the appropriate wholesale prices indices from the Department of Industry published in *Trade and Industry.*

Personnel

The Department of Employment Gazette and other DE publications will keep you fully informed on the latest figures and trends in earnings, wage rates, overtime, unemployment, vacancies, hours of work, work stoppages due to industrial disputes, retail prices, etc.

Management efficiency and finance

You can compare your own costs and operating ratios with those for your industry, eg

☐ Net output per head, stocks as a percentage of sales, wages per £ of total sales, etc, from the annual *Census of Production.*

☐ Return on capital, dividends and interest as a percentage of assets, profits as a percentage of turnover, etc, from *Business Monitor M3 (Company Finance).*

Investment

Major investment decisions are made against the background of trends and prospects in the economy. Regular press notices on output, demand, earnings, prices, unemployment, trade, etc are released by government departments. They are all brought together once a month in *Economic Trends.*

The Government Statistical Service

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) comprises the statistics divisions of all major departments plus the two big collecting agencies – Business Statistics Office and Office of Population Censuses and Surveys – and the Central Statistical Office which co-ordinates the system. It is the greatest concentration of statistical expertise and by far the largest single provider of statistics in the country.

The GSS exists first to serve the needs of modern government. But much of the information it compiles is readily usable by business management, particularly in marketing, and indeed large parts of the system have been shaped with this in mind. A vast amount of this information is regularly published and more is available on request.

It is not expensive. The GSS cannot normally give tailor-made answers to an individual firm's problems. But it provides a very large source of inexpensive information which may help in finding solutions. It is nearly always worth checking to see what is available before embarking on private research.

How to find what you want

For anyone coming new to government statistics, the first thing to grasp is that each department prepares and publishes its own statistics – via HMSO in the case of most printed publications. If the series is of sufficient interest, it may emerge first in summary form as a press notice. A more detailed treatment is given in the department's own publications – either general publications such as *Trade and Industry* or purely statistical reports like the *Business Monitors.* Finally, it may be included in all-embracing statistical periodicals like the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* or the annual *Social Trends.*

It may be that your needs can be met from one of these digests; or you may have to consult the special departmental publication; or you may have to go further still and seek a special tabulation – at cost – from the department.

The last two pages list the main regular publications, all of which can be referred to at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU and nearly all at the Business Statistics Office at Newport, Gwent; at both you will find photocopying facilities. Most of the principal volumes will be held or quickly obtained by major public libraries around the country. If you wish to purchase a copy, this can be done through any of the government bookshops. If you cannot find what you need, refer to the more comprehensive *Guide to Official Statistics* or contact the appropriate departmental source, listed on the next two pages. All the extension numbers quoted were up to date at the time of going to print. But they are subject to change, and if you have difficulty finding the right person phone **Statistics and Market Intelligence Library** at 01-248 5757 ext 368 (telex 886143), or write to **Press and Information Service, Central Statistical Office,** Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ – or, if you are located in Wales or the west, contact the **Business Statistics Office,** Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. Newport 56111 ext 2973, telex 497121).

Summary

Look at the published source at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library or the Business Statistics Office or your local library or by purchasing from HMSO
For further information phone or write to the appropriate department
If in doubt phone or call at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library or the Business Statistics Office, or write to the Central Statistical Office

Index of industrial production for Wales: third quarter 1978

The index of industrial production for Wales relating to the third quarter of 1978 is in a revised form. The basis of the index has been altered to 1975 = 100 to bring it in line with the United Kingdom index. This change has entailed a complete revision of the industrial weights at a fine level of detail. This revision takes account both of the relative importance of the constituent industries and of revaluation of their net outputs. As in the case of the United Kingdom index, the main effect is to reduce the importance of the manufacturing sector. In Wales the steel and engineering sectors are reduced, but mining and quarrying (mainly due to a higher valuation of net output), construction and the utilities have increased weight. Besides the weighting revisions the quality of data and the methods of compilation have also been improved.

Due to these changes the results of the new index are not comparable with those previously issued; however, a consistent seasonally adjusted series of the new basis going back to 1975, is given in the tables.

In the third quarter of 1978 industrial output, which had risen strongly by nearly 6 per cent in the second quarter, fell back by 3 per cent; the fall in manufacturing output alone was slightly more than 4 per cent. The major contributor to this fall was the ferrous metals sector, where output, after staging a rapid recovery earlier in the year, fell back markedly. Mechanical engineering and the food, drink and tobacco industry also fell back, but there was a very strong improvement in motor vehicles, and gains were registered by building materials, electrical engineering and coal and petroleum products. Outside manufacturing, coal mining output improved by 7 per cent over the quarter, but the utilities and construction industries registered falls.

Taking the year from the third quarter 1977 to the same period 1978, production overall was slightly down. Output by the manufacturing sector as a whole was nearly 2 per cent lower than in 1977, but this was almost entirely due to the problems of the ferrous metal sector – though mechanical engineering and other manufacturing industries' output also registered a fall. A very large gain (20 per cent) was registered by the motor vehicles industry, and major gains by electrical engineering, building materials, paper and timber. Outside manufacturing, a small gain (2 per cent) was recorded for mining and quarrying, but small falls registered by the utilities and construction groups.

Table 1 **Index of industrial production for Wales** [1]

Seasonally adjusted 1975 = 100

Market sector	1975 weights per thousand	Annual indices		Quarterly indices							Percentage change over previous	
				1977				1978				
		1976	1977	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr p	3rd qtr [2]	Qtr	Year
Total: all industries	1 000	102.8	103.8	106.4	100.5	106.4	101.7	101.9	107.8	104.8	−3	−1
Mining and quarrying	102	92	86	88	85	86	84	79	82	88	7	2
Total: all manufacturing industries	620	107.4	106.7	111.7	101.4	109.5	104.2	105.5	111.7	107.5	−4	−2
Food, drink and tobacco	38	103	109	104	109	111	114	122	118	113	−4	2
Coal and petroleum products	27	100	89	96	85	88	87	90	93	96	4	9
Chemicals and allied industries	59	124	132	136	130	134	129	130	135	134	0	0
Metal manufacture: total	161	116	106	118	92	114	99	102	112	95	−16	−17
Ferrous	129	116	107	120	90	118	101	104	116	94	−19	−21
Non-ferrous	32	114	101	110	103	98	91	91	98	98	1	0
Engineering and allied industries: total	190	101	105	107	101	106	103	104	111	112	1	5
Mechanical and instrument engineering	56	106	114	116	108	119	114	112	116	109	−6	−8
Electrical engineering	54	88	92	94	91	93	88	90	97	102	4	10
Vehicles (including aircraft and ships)	44	115	118	120	112	120	119	119	126	145	15	20
Metal goods not elsewhere specified	37	97	93	98	93	91	89	92	103	91	0	0
Textiles, leather and clothing	45	94	91	90	90	93	91	94	94	97	3	4
Bricks, pottery, glass, cement, etc	21	102	109	111	107	109	110	108	115	121	5	11
Timber, furniture etc	17	93	91	103	82	90	87	95	99	97	−2	8
Paper, printing and publishing	26	103	101	102	99	97	108	95	112	105	−6	8
Other manufacturing industries	35	115	120	125	123	119	113	114	112	113	1	−5
Construction	182	89	96	93	97	99	96	92	100	98	−1	−1
Gas, electricity and water	96	112	118	118	119	122	115	122	125	118	−6	−3

[1] Revisions to the series (going back to the start of the previous year) are normally made each quarter to take account both of more recent information and improved seasonal adjustment factors. [2] Earlier figures can be obtained from Economic Services Division, Room 307, Welsh Office, 31 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF1 9UJ. p Provisional.
Source: Welsh Office.

Table 2 **Index of industrial production for Wales: market sector analysis** [1] [2]

Seasonally adjusted 1975 = 100

Market sector	1975 [3] weights per thousand	Annual indices		Quarterly indices							Percentage change over previous year	
				1977				1978				
		1976	1977	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr p	Qtr	Year
Consumer goods sector	145	101.8	103.9	104.6	101.2	105.0	104.5	107.0	109.6	108.8	−1	4
Intermediate goods sector	570	108.4	105.7	110.9	101.2	108.8	101.7	102.8	108.6	106.1	−2	−3
Investment goods sector	103	98.2	106.8	107.9	99.8	111.2	108.2	110.0	111.2	106.8	−4	−4

[1] See footnote [1] of table 1. [2] See footnote [2] of table 1. [3] The construction industry (weight 182) is excluded from this analysis. p Provisional. *Source:* Welsh Office.

Studies in official statistics no. 31

Regional accounts

This booklet, prepared by the Central Statistical Office, describes the data sources and methods used in estimating gross domestic product, personal incomes and components of final expenditure for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the eight economic planning regions of England. A Continental Shelf region is also distinguished; this includes the profits of the UK offshore oil and gas activity. Certain of the estimates are further subdivided within the South East region to distinguish the Greater London area.

The booklet provides an essential background for regional economists and others concerned with the interpretation of the published data in the regional accounts. The concepts adopted for the individual items within the accounts and the limitations of the data and methods used to produce the estimates are fully discussed.

Price £1.75 net (£1.90 by post). ISBN 0 11 630161 9

British Film Fund (the 'Eady' levy) distributions

Provisional distributions made by the British Film Fund Agency for the period ended 27 January 1979 [1]

Title of film	Date of registration	Provisional payment (£)	Payee [2]
High cost films [3]			
The People That Time Forgot	30. 6.77	185	American International Productions (England) Ltd
Full Circle	21. 4.78	194	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Watership Down	22. 9.78	27 529	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Confessions Of A Driving Instructor	21. 7.76	2 684	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Confessions Of A Window Cleaner	28. 8.74	2 685	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Force 10 From Navarone	6.12.78	38 784	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Jabberwocky	25. 3.77	761	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Midnight Express	21. 7.78	7 477	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Rosie Dixon Night Nurse	10. 2.78	605	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Sinbad And The Eye Of The Tiger	23. 6.77	916	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Born To Run	16. 9.77	165	Walt Disney Productions Ltd
Candleshoe	8. 2.78	1 830	Walt Disney Productions Ltd
One Of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing	24. 2.76	170	Walt Disney Productions Ltd
All Creatures Great And Small	11. 2.75	191	EMI Films Ltd
At The Earth's Core	12. 7.76	106	EMI Films Ltd
Cross Of Iron	11. 2.77	101	EMI Films Ltd
Death On The Nile	28. 9.78	51 548	EMI Films Ltd
It Shouldn't Happen To A Vet	29. 3.76	177	EMI Films Ltd
The Land That Time Forgot	3. 2.75	109	EMI Films Ltd
The Man Who Fell To Earth	17. 3.76	119	EMI Films Ltd
Sweeney 2	17. 4.78	2 693	EMI Films Ltd
Warlords Of Atlantis	14. 6.78	14 891	EMI Films Ltd
Carry On Emmanuelle	21.11.78	4 200	Helmdale International Films Ltd
Hound Of The Baskervilles	30.10.78	1 927	Helmdale International Films Ltd
Tommy	15. 4.75	4 127	Helmdale International Films Ltd
The Medusa Touch	20. 6.78	10 704	ITC Film Distributors Ltd
Russian Roulette	12. 3.76	2 690	ITC Film Distributors Ltd
Blue Belle	14. 2.77	184	Miracle Films Ltd
The Legacy	22. 9.78	24 974	Pethurst Ltd
The Adventure Of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother	7. 1.76	100	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Bugsy Malone	2. 7.76	1 913	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
The Ghoul	28. 5.75	449	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Holocaust 2000	20. 2.78	316	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Legend Of The Werewolf	30.10.75	449	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
The Thirty Nine Steps	20.11.78	9 235	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Tomorrow Never Comes	2. 3.78	257	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
The Wild Geese	5. 7.78	6 504	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Cruel Passion	17. 2.78	634	Target International Pictures Ltd
The First Great Train Robbery	20.12.78	5 300	United Artists Corporation Ltd
Joseph Andrews	13. 4.77	160	United Artists Corporation Ltd
The Man With The Golden Gun	11.12.74	585	United Artists Corporation Ltd
Revenge Of The Pink Panther	13. 7.78	2 408	United Artists Corporation Ltd
The Spy Who Loved Me	6. 7.77	534	United Artists Corporation Ltd
From Beyond The Grave	14. 3.74	113	Warner Bros Distributors Ltd
The Squeeze	22. 2.77	326	Warner Bros Distributors Ltd
Stand Up Virgin Soldiers	25. 3.77	102	Warner Bros Distributors Ltd
Superman	13.12.78	291 696	Warner Bros Distributors Ltd
Low cost films [4]			
Under The Doctor	21.10.76	122	Alpha Films Ltd
What's Up Nurse	11. 5.77	117	Blackwater Film Productions Ltd
What's Up Nurse Superdoc	21. 9.78	438	Blackwater Film Productions Ltd
A Lustful Lady	26. 6.78	187	Border Film Productions (London) Ltd
Naughty Girls	4. 9.75	220	Border Film Productions (London) Ltd
House Of Mortal Sin	5. 2.76	667	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
The Deadly Females	24.11.76	615	Donwin Productions Ltd
Genesis	3. 2.77	101	EMI Films Ltd
Secrets Of A Superstud	23. 6.76	418	Meadway International Production Ltd
Frightmare	3. 2.75	138	Miracle Films Ltd
Girls Come First	3. 7.75	300	New Realm Distributors Ltd
The Rise And Fall Of Ivor Dickie	29. 3.78	287	New Realm Distributors Ltd
You're Driving Me Crazy	21. 6.78	1 633	New Realm Distributors Ltd
Sex Farm	30. 1.74	292	Queensway Promotions Ltd
The Brute	7.11.77	527	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Erotic Inferno/ Adam And Nicole	20. 5.75	491	Reynoldstown Ltd
Let Us Play Sex/ The Intruder	1. 6.76	332	Reynoldstown Ltd
Killer's Moon	8.11.78	4 157	Rothernorth Ltd
Adventures of a Plumbers Mate	30. 3.78	402	Salon Productions Ltd
Adventures Of A Taxi Driver	17. 5.76	420	Salon Productions Ltd
Hardcore	7. 3.77	544	Target International Pictures Ltd
Let's Get Laid	2. 6.78	3 314	Target International Pictures Ltd
Sweet Virgin	8. 3.78	629	Target International Pictures Ltd
Come Play With Me	25. 3.77	1 627	Tigon Film Distributors Ltd
Intimate Games	21. 4.76	237	Tigon Film Distributors Ltd
The Playbirds	19. 6.78	5 786	Tigon Film Distributors Ltd
Big Banana Feet	31.10.77	3 118	Unicorn Leisure Ltd
Schizo	10.11.76	813	Warner Bros Distributors Ltd
Short films [5]			
Highways And Byways	8. 2.78	164	Carrickford Productions Ltd
French Leave	28. 3.77	108	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Harvest	6. 9.78	475	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Hotwheels	5. 9.78	17 657	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Marine Merchants	11. 5.76	103	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Revolutions In Fast Circles	29. 7.76	321	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Trinidad And Tobago	7. 3.78	167	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Bovver Boots	19. 5.78	2 250	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Natural High – The Commodores On Tour	27. 6.78	127	EMI Films Ltd
Falling Angels	28. 4.75	485	Equarealm Ltd
A Pride Of Penguins	23. 2.77	242	Films of Scotland
Dawn Breakers	2. 1.76	414	Helmdale International Films Ltd
Beneath The North Sea	27. 6.78	181	ITC Film Distributors Ltd
Interruptions	20.11.74	102	Miracle Films Ltd
Dear Marjorie	7. 9.77	182	New Realm Distributors Ltd
Boobs			
California Triple	21. 8.78	227	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Don't Call It Frisco	18.12.78	742	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Gateway To The Presidents	27. 5.76	336	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Golden Gate	27.10.75	184	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Good Health	3.11.78	1 400	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Great Adventure	19.12.77	165	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Guards On Parade	7.12.78	4 112	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Guns At The Wood	8.12.75	808	Queensway Promotions Ltd
The Italian Taste	21. 8.78	618	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Sabre 226	31. 3.78	1 180	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Sea World	19.12.77	227	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Two Man Made Wonders	19. 3.75	140	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Yep And Nope	18. 6.75	516	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Captain Scott Goes East	24. 8.78	291	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Fast Company	3. 2.78	1 540	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
The Great Pram Race	1. 2.78	579	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Happy To Meet	8. 8.75	239	Rank Film Distributors Ltd

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Title of film	Date of registration	Provisional payment (£)	Payee [2]
The End Of The Road	26. 9.77	117	United Artists Corporation Ltd
London Skateboards	20. 7.78	132	United Artists Corporation Ltd

[1] Excludes all films earning less than £100 in the current period and all newsreels. Details of these films will be shown in the annual tables. [2] The payee is either the maker or the assignee of the maker's rights, or a person nominated to receive payments on behalf of the maker or his assignee. [3] Long films (ie films with a running time of 33⅓ minutes and over) the labour costs of which exceed £50,000. [4] Long films, the labour costs of which do not exceed £50,000. [5] Films with a running time of less than 33⅓ minutes.

British Film Fund Agency returns

The British Film Fund Agency has authorised the publication of the following information for the four weeks ended 27 January 1979:

	£
Distributors' earnings submitted	
Low-cost films:	
Eligible (after multiplying by 2½)	18 287
Not eligible for 2½ times rental	86 577
	104 864
High cost films (including newsreels after multiplying by 2½	1 346 508
	1 451 372
Films under 3000 ft (after multiplying by 2½)	106 861
	1 558 233
Levy collections paid to agency by HM Customs and Excise to 6 February 1979 including an estimate of collections approximately covering entertainments for the four weeks ended 27 January 1979	451 000

The third interim allocation for the twenty-second year will be at the rate of 36 per cent.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 16 March 1979.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
BRITISH					
Can I Come Too?	BR/E 39960/17/3/84	44	13 March	New Realm Distributors Ltd	Ovalregion Ltd
Black Island	BR/E 39961/17/3/84	57	14 March	Children's Film Foundation Ltd	Kingsgate Films (London) Ltd
Blow Out	BR/E 39965/17/3/84	18	16 March	United Artists Corporation Ltd	New Zealand National Film Unit
Time On Your Hands	BR/E 39969/17/3/84	24	16 March	Columbia-EMI-Warner Distributors Ltd	Global Films Ltd and Queensway Promotions Ltd
The Thief Of Baghdad	BR/E 39970C/17/3/84	102	16 March	Columbia-EMI-Warner Distributors Ltd	Palm Films Ltd London, Victorine, Studios, Nice
Movietone News 2597	BR/E 39838/17/3/84	8	16 March	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
COMMUNITY					
Sex Scene	EC 39958/17/3/84	76	12 March	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd	Les Films du Daunou and Realisations Michel Lemoine, Paris
FOREIGN					
Erotic Nightmare	F 39957	70	12 March	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd	S. Markides Film Enterprises, Athens
Behind Convent Walls	F 39959	95	12 March	New Realm Distributors Ltd	Trust International Films, Rome
Kentucky Fried Movie	F 39962	84	15 March	Alpha Films Ltd	Kentucky Fried Theatres, New York
The Reef	F 39963	47	16 March	ITC Film Distributors Ltd	John Heyer Film Co Ltd, Sydney
The Boys From Brazil	F 39964	123	16 March	ITC Film Distributors Ltd	Pimlico Films Ltd, London
Invasion Of The Body Snatchers	F 39966	115	16 March	United Artists Corporation Ltd	Solo Film Co, California
Rendezvous	F 39967	9	16 March	United Artists Corporation Ltd	Les Films 13, Paris
Spiderman Strikes Back	F 39968	93	16 March	Columbia-EMI-Warner Distributors Ltd	Danchuck, California

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